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ORIGINAL

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LATIN AMERICA

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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JUNTA DISCUSSES SUMMIT, BEAGLE DECISION

PY251343Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Communique released by the military junta at the conclusion of its meeting at the Condor building on 24 January in Buenos Aires]

[Text] The military junta met today at the Condor building, headquarters of the air force. Matters pertaining to the talks between the Argentine and Chilean presidents on 19 January and other matters pertaining to the Beagle Channel arbitration decision were discussed during the session.

The chiefs of staff of the army, Maj Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola; of the navy, Vice Adm Armando Lambruschini; and of the air force, Maj Gen Omar Domingo Graffigna; Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes and the secretaries of the three forces, Brig Gen Reinaldo Benito Bigone, Rear Adm Eduardo Rene Fracassi and Air Force Brig Gen Basilio Lemi Dozo attended the meeting. The meeting began at 1715 and concluded at 1945.

MONTES ISSUES DECLARATION REJECTING BEAGLE RULING

PY260145Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text of Argentine Government declaration on the Beagle Channel issue read by Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes in Buenos Aires on 25 January--presumably live]

[Text] The Argentine Government wishes to report to both national and international public opinion, through all news media, the decision it has reached about the ruling of the arbitration panel regarding the Beagle Channel. The Argentine Government has reached this decision after a careful and in-depth study of the ruling of the arbitration panel. For this it has spent nearly 9 months, entrusting the task to the appropriate government bodies, in addition to taking into account the opinion of national experts in international affairs.

The considered study of the matter has been carried out in the light of a firm principle of the Argentine Government, a principle which had been clearly outlined from the very first by the communique issued on 3 May, 1975. This communique stated that our traditional policy of respect for international commitments did not mean that we would allow a decision made by third parties to harm sovereign and age-old Argentine rights which had never before been submitted for arbitration.

The ruling of the arbitration panel harms these rights. The obvious nullity of this ruling, due to the fact that the court exceeded its jurisdiction, to the mistakes contained in it and to the open violation of essential laws incurred by the arbitration panel, both in procedure and substance, allows the Argentine Government not to consider itself bound by this ruling.

Our country has not found it easy to reach this decision. Argentina has always overcome its conflicts by peaceful means, it has honorably fulfilled its commitments, and it has obeyed decisions which many times had been adverse. However, in view of the seriousness of the harm done to its rights and of the lack of grounds for the reasoning which leads to the destruction of laws and principles, the compliance with which has enabled an age-old coexistence, Argentina sincerely believes that the rejection of the ruling and a dedicated search for new solutions which could guarantee those inalienable principles will in the end preserve harmony in bilateral relations. This harmony must be free of insult and cannot be based on a formal compliance with a decision which the national community clearly believes legally incorrect and politically unfair.

The behavior of the Argentine Government is neither hasty or thoughtless. Its attitude is not an emotional response to a ruling which may be considered somewhat questionable or illegal.

It is the appropriate reaction to a ruling which pays no attention to a valid viewpoint regarding the limits between the jurisdictions of the two states: the Atlantic-Pacific principle. It is the appropriate reaction to a ruling which is based on attributing to Argentina a certain position toward the essential matter of the demarcation of the Beagle Channel, a position which our country has never held. It is a reaction to a ruling according to which the 1881 treaty was a transaction through which Argentina obtained Patagonia, as if Argentina's historical rights over it could ever have been seriously questioned. In sum, it is a ruling which concerns areas over which the panel had no jurisdiction, and a ruling which has allowed Chile to implement measures which, far from putting an end to the conflict, have exacerbated it. In addition to all this, the ruling has other shortcomings which make it null as a legal act.

Argentina does not want to appropriate something which belongs to somebody else, but it is not going to give up rights which regrettably had been neglected or to abandon essential principles which have traditionally ruled the harmonious relations with Chile.

Ever since 2 May 1977, from the very first moment, the national government has placed all its efforts and sincerity in trying to find a bilateral solution to the serious jurisdictional problems which have emerged with Chile. I especially want to remind you of the two trips made by Admiral Torti to Santiago, Chile, trips which he made as special envoy of the military government. On each occasion he carried a letter from the Argentine president to Gen Pinochet.

On each occasion, Admiral Torti delivered to the Chilean president the concern of the Argentine Government over the serious situation existing between the two countries and emphasized the need to reach a direct understanding. The Argentine envoy told General Pinochet that for Chile and Argentina as well, the only way which leads to a future of joint progress was that of integration and direct understanding.

The informal talks held between the delegation headed by Gen Osiris Villegas and his Chilean counterpart--despite the just and firm Argentine position and the efforts made--did not yield the expected results.

Nevertheless, the Argentine Government went even further in its efforts and invited the Chilean Government to begin bilateral negotiations aimed at finding, through mutual understanding of the respective interests and rights, an honorable and permanent formula which would definitely open the doors for a fruitful relation between the two countries for the greatest happiness of their peoples.

The national government, convinced that it was necessary to make all possible effort to preserve peace and reach an agreement, ordered its foreign minister to leave for Santiago, Chile. I did so. Later, the Chilean foreign minister came to Buenos Aires to continue negotiations. These negotiations did not yield the expected results. Nevertheless, the Argentine Government has sought peace as a goal. To achieve this, it has placed on the table all its diplomatic resources and has tried all forms of dialog limiting itself strictly to diplomatic practices.

Consequently, the superior national government feels it is its duty to announce formally that it has decided to declare null and void the decision of Her Britannic Majesty on the Beagle Channel question, forwarded to Argentina on 2 May 1977.

The declaration of nullification by our government is based on serious and pondered juridical and political arguments and on the serious, repeated and varied errors, omissions and abuses which are included in the arbitrator's decision, and which seriously damage Argentine rights and interests.

These errors, omissions and abuses are listed as follows:

1. Distortion of the Argentine position.

In various paragraphs, the decision describes as the Argentine position something which the country has never maintained before the arbitration panel, and this court used that distorted version. This method of distorting a claim and deciding, not on what was truly argued, but on what the court says Argentina has asked, is used even to study one of Argentina's main arguments.

In this way, it even distorted the very Argentine position on the Beagle Channel. Argentina has asserted and demonstrated that according to the documents issued by the discoverers and first explorers of the channel, the eastern mouth of the channel is north of the island of Lennox, between Picton and Navarino. The decision, however, says that according to Argentina, the channel stretches between the islands of Navarino and Lennox, which is absolutely incorrect. Argentina claims Lennox as an island in the Atlantic and not because of its position in relation to the channel.

This serious distortion of the Argentine position, which resulted from failing to take into account the true Argentine position on the subject, is repeated in other sections of the decision. This distortion affected the decision of the court panel and its conclusions on the meaning of the term Beagle Channel in the 1881 treaty.

2. Opinion on contentious issues not subject to arbitration.

The court issued its opinion on contentious issues which were not subject to arbitration and which were beyond its jurisdiction. Thus, during the arbitration process, it was clear that there was a disagreement between Argentina and Chile regarding the islands south of the Hammer, that is to say, south of the area subject to arbitration--Sesambre, Evout, Bernevelt and so forth--a matter which was not within the jurisdiction of the court. The court, however, issued judgment on the status of those islands in some sections of its decision.

For example, the court stated in one paragraph, when denying the applicability of the Atlantic-Pacific principle to the islands clause of Article 3 of the 1881 treaty, that the court awarded Chile all the islands south of the Beagle Channel, be they east or west of Cape Horn, thus including the islands south of the Hammer. In another paragraph, when rejecting the concept of the Beagle Channel--a concept which was attributed to Argentina by mistake--the court added a sentence which implicitly rejected Argentina's claim over the southern islands.

Chile issued its decree dated 14 July, 1977, on the basis of this excess of power of the arbitration court, establishing basic maritime lines which make waters Chilean which, until then, had not been Chilean and which had always been used by international navigation, causing a projection of the Chilean maritime jurisdiction to 200 miles into the south Atlantic, which Argentina estimated to be its own.

3. Contradictions in the reasoning.

Another defect of the arbitral decision is its contradictions, one of the most serious being its treatment of the islands. Regarding the islands which are located in the section of the channel extending from Lapataia Bay to Snipe Island, the court considered that they are in the channel and that since the 1881 treaty did not attribute them to either of the two countries, it ruled that they must be divided between the two. The court stated that the channel has two branches at its mouth: a Chilean branch extending to Cape San Pio, and an Argentine branch extending to Paso Goree. As stated before, this is a deformation of the true Argentine channel. Following the court's reasoning, therefore, the islands Picton, Nueva and Lennox are also in the channel. It is then appropriate to ask why these are not divided according to the principle applied with the first group of islands. To justify this contradiction, the court made another mistake by stating that all disputed territories had been awarded by the treaty, whereas before--as indicated above--the court stated that the islands in the channel had not been awarded by any specific clause in the treaty. As a result of this contradiction, the court divided the Beagle Channel, according to its own definition, into two sections subject to different legal systems, without giving any justification for it.

4. Vices of interpretation.

A legal interpretation is a specific function established by the law. It is not dependent upon a judge's fantasy or judgment. A judge is not allowed to go beyond established points. Otherwise, his task would not be to interpret the law but to revise it. The arbitral decision is fundamentally based on the text of the 1881 treaty. Therefore, the court should have followed certain rules for the interpretation, among them those known as "recourse to context" [recurso al contexto] and "useful effect" [efecto util]. The court ignored these rules, particularly the latter. As a result, the text of the treaty, rather than being interpreted, was subjected to some kind of revision and adaptation which is contrary to its wording and its spirit.

Article 3 of the treaty attributes the other islands on the Atlantic to Argentina, among them Picton, Nueva and Lennox. The arbitration court rejects this thesis in paragraph 65, thus violating the rule of "useful effect", without explaining which specific islands--other than Nueva, Picton and Lennox--were awarded to Argentina in that clause of the treaty.

5. Geographical and historical errors. The decision contains erroneous statements of fact which affect the reason for the decision, the decision itself or both. Some are geographical errors. Even the demarcation of the maritime border made by the court on the map attached to the award is inaccurate and has technical errors which make it unreliable.

The other errors, besides geographical errors, are historical errors, which also have serious logical and juridical defects. In this regard, it is particularly important to point out the treatment given by the award to the principle of the Atlantic-Pacific division in the case of Cape Horn.

As it is known, this is internationally well-known geographical data, on which the two countries, Argentina and Chile, built a system of harmonious coexistence based on the acknowledgment of this geographical oceanic division as a division of their respective jurisdictions: Argentina in the Atlantic and Chile in the Pacific.

To ignore this principle, originating even before the independence of the two countries, is at the same time a serious juridical error, because this principle was included in the 1881 treaty, the 1893 protocol and in the complementary acts of the 1902 May pacts.

Within this context, there are two things in particular which cannot be understood: the first, that the court declares that the clause of Article 3 of the 1881 treaty which grants Argentina the islands in the Atlantic does not show the Atlantic factor; the second, the statement of the court that the 1893 protocol falls outside the 1881 treaty, both on date and content.

As its title itself states, the 1893 protocol is additional and clarifies the 1881 treaty, and as its own content shows, the protocol affirms that due to the provisions of the 1881 treaty, the sovereignty of each country over its respective littoral is absolute, therefore, Chile cannot pretend to anything in the Atlantic just as Argentina cannot pretend to anything in the Pacific. Here we have, therefore, a basic error of law.

6. Lack of fairness in the appreciation of the argumentation and the proofs produced by each part.

The decision does not consider on an equal basis the thesis and the evidence of each party. It ignores background which affects the case, background which is concrete and relevant evidence in the situation being judged and puts aside the area particularly related to subsequent behavior, the concrete historical context of the dispute, basing itself on guidelines or general ideas derived from a modern reconstruction of that behavior.

The consequences of this lack of fairness are especially serious because of the fact that the panel fails to reach a clearcut conclusion in favor of the Chilean position, but merely prefers this position to that of Argentina after weighing the weaknesses of the two positions. But the scales are tipped to Chile only after either paying no attention or distorting the Argentine theses, ignoring important evidence, errors in substance, etc.

The lack of fairness becomes obvious when the panel fails to take into consideration important Argentine arguments and pays no attention to proof related to these arguments.

[Following passage was not included in voice version but carried in version of Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 26 January: "These, as well as other no-less-important reasons, have been taken into account for the declaration of nullification we are now making public."]

For all the aforementioned reasons, the supreme government of the nation reasserts Argentina's sovereignty over all islands, maritime areas, continental shelves and sea floor which belong to it beyond any doubt since they are located in the Atlantic Ocean, east of the Cape Horn meridian, in line with the spirit and the letter of the 1881, 1893, and 1902 treaties. In addition, the Argentine Government expresses its decision to implement all measures necessary to defend its rights in the area up to Cape Horn.

In spite of the seriousness of the decision which it has been forced to reach in order to preserve its vital interests and to guarantee that its essential rights will prevail, the Argentine Government wishes to reassert its desire to find a peaceful solution for the conflict with Chile, a solution which could protect the rights of each state and their harmonious coexistence. This is the very spirit which prevailed during recent talks between the Argentine and Chilean presidents, together with the joint desire to find final solutions to the disagreements, thus avoiding doing harm to age-old bonds of cooperation.

U.S. LEADS 'AGGRESSION' AGAINST TIN PRODUCERS

FY241717Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1458 GMT 24 Jan 78 FY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Jan--It was reported here today that the United States is leading the industrialized nations in an "international aggression" against the tin-producing countries. A communique from Bolivian mining businessmen says that "the United States and some tin-consuming nations are trying in every possible way to freeze international prices, against the interests of the producing nations."

Col Ernesto Camacho, the mining minister, today told the local press that the government would receive more details concerning the International Tin Council [CIE] meeting within the next few hours. Camacho avoided journalists' questions regarding the CIE's decision not to raise tin prices, although he did seem displeased by the decision.

In terms of value, tin represented 67 percent of all Bolivian exports during 1977. After Malaysia, Bolivia is the second largest tin-producing nation in the world.

The Bolivian mining businessmen's communique added: "The United States, the FRG and Japan have once again shown their irrational stand with regard to tin prices. They do not understand the position of the producing nations." Mining circles expressed concern over the future of international tin prices. According to national estimates, there is now a 22,000-metric-ton tin deficit in the world. It was confirmed here today that during 1978 Bolivia will produce some 30,500 metric tons of tin, of which the state mining company will produce 24,000 tons.

The nation's mining businessmen reasserted through their communique that the U.S. entry into the CIE was against the interests of tin producing nations. The sources reiterated that it is urgent that Bolivia establish diplomatic relations with the PRC in order to change the present situation in the CIE, which is controlled by the nations which consume this semi-precious mineral.

During the last few months Bolivia has opposed the stand of most CIE member nations, especially consumers, because it believes its national interests are not respected. Tin consuming and producing nations both participate in the International Tin Council.

FOREIGN PRIESTS BEING SCRUTINIZED BY GOVERNMENT

FY240211Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2250 GMT 23 Jan 78 FY

[Text] La Paz, 23 Jan--Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo reported here that Bolivian officials are studying the actions of some foreign priests. The minister added that appropriate letters were sent to high church officials to inform them of a number of specific events which had taken place in the country, but he did not specify what these events were.

Three-fourths of the Bolivian clergy is made up of foreign personnel, mainly from Spain and the U.S. The minister also did not name the priests who are being reported to the high church officials.

PARTIES CALL FOR DIALOG, PACIFICATION

PY251643Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Jan 78 p 9 PY

[Text] The need to introduce a climate of national dialog and pacification allowing application of genuine democratic methods in the election of a new constitutional government, is becoming a priority future in the various political currents which have started to announce their views regarding this important development.

Political Alliance

A document released by the alliance of the Christian Democratic Party, the Authentic Revolutionary Party and the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [Alianza PDC-PRA-MNRI] and signed by their representatives, says: "The parties of the alliance very sincerely hope for peace and rapprochement. But we also know that national pacification does not depend on us. It is in the hands of the armed forces and their government."

The document was released as a result of the events of the last few days, and it asserts that the three parties are now acting publicly after several years. It charges that their chiefs and leaders, Benjamin Miguel, Walter Guevara Arze and Ramon Claure Calvi, had been ill-treated during their detentions and that the arrest of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo showed a lack of respect.

It refers to the deportations to Chile and the insults and ill-treatment suffered by exiles from those parties in that country. Despite those incidents they assert that they have decided to forge, together with the people, "a fatherland in which no citizen will again be tortured, persecuted or banished" and that they want peace and understanding among Bolivians.

It adds that in the same way as these parties are giving an example of peaceful acting, they also demand from the government "a minimum of respect which is necessary for peaceful coexistence among all Bolivians," adding that this respect should be based on the validity and application of the constitution. It says that if the government wants a climate of peace and rapprochement, "it should begin by repealing the decrees and measures which violate the constitution."

Falange

The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] accepts the dialog proposed by General Banzer to achieve national pacification, according to a statement by FSB Secretary General Humberto Siles Miranda on behalf of the party. Gaston Moreira Ostria, acting chief of the party, has stated his full solidarity with and support for the statements of FSB Chief Mario Gutierrez regarding a critical appraisal of national politics.

The announcement made by General Banzer on Tuesday night of his government's decision to grant a general political amnesty was received by the FSB with pleasure and satisfaction.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES RESUMED LABOR ACTIVITY

PY251604Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 25 Jan--Last night the military government authorized the legal activity of the labor unions after a 3-year ban, giving the green light to the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], which was illegal until last night.

The government said that labor union elections will be held within 30 days, federation elections within 60 days, and that there will be a 90-day deadline as of today to hold elections in the labor union confederations. The government decree does not set any limitations for labor union democracy, other than those established by law.

Leaders of the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] told the press that democratic labor union elections will be held in all mining districts within the next few days. [FSTMB leader Filemon] Escobar said that the organizing of the COB will still require some time, "but forming the COB on the basis of the democratic will of the workers has priority for the labor movement," he concluded.

The decree legalizing the labor unions stipulates that the "labor coordinators," labor leaders appointed by the government, will automatically cease to hold their labor union posts. In the last few days "the coordinators" have been publicly rejected by most workers of the country. They have held their posts since the labor union ban 3 years ago.

BLANCO WARNS AGAINST BTG WAGE INCREASES

PY252024Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 25 Jan--Bolivian Finance Minister David Blanco gave an official warning here today that high salary increases "may lead to a collapse of the national economy." Blanco added that some labor groups are demanding indiscriminate salary increases which endanger the present monetary stability. It was officially recognized that the government is concerned over inflationary pressures on the Bolivian peso (20.40 pesos to the dollar). At present the foreign debt of the country totals \$2 billion, a record figure in Bolivian history.

Blanco is one of the two civilian members of the Bolivian military cabinet; he is 32 and the youngest of the cabinet ministers.

BRIEFS

CAF CREDIT--La Paz, 13 Jan--It was reported here today that the Andean Development Corporation [CAF] has granted a \$15,673,000 credit to Bolivia to finance several industrial and agricultural projects, including telecommunications. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1552 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY]

COMIBOL OFFICIALS SWORN IN--In the presence of Col Ernesto Camacho, the mining and metallurgy minister, the manager of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], Col Enrique Vargas, swore in several aides this morning, as well as (Humberto Capriles Torico), permanent representative to the International Tin Council in London. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Jan 78 PY]

FRG MINING LOAN--The FRG has approved the financing for the installation of a metallurgical complex for smelting lead and silver near Potosi. The loan is for 40 million deutsche marks, payable in 30 years with a 2 percent interest rate. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY]

NETWORK INCORPORATES ANOTHER STATION--Radio Comarapa of Comarapa, Santa Cruz Department, tonight joins the Radio Cruz del Sur Network of Bolivia. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Jan 78 PY]

JORNAL ASSESSES FIRST YEAR OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION

FY232240Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 Jan 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Ungrateful Year"]

[Text] The first year of President Jimmy Carter's administration will remain marked by the initiative he took in defense of and respect for human rights. The initiative was taken truculently in the initial phase and more prudently and moderately toward the middle of the year, but it must be recognized that it was the first one in the West, and more concretely, the first U.S. initiative which drove the Soviet Union into a defensive position. And not only this: President Carter also managed to get practically all governments in the East and the West to attach, either directly or indirectly, the priority to the problem which he had hoped they would.

As for the rest, and as was expected from the beginning, the first year of Carter's administration was not a complete success. On the internal side, the decreasing ratings in the polls attest to the incapacity shown so far by this new administration to fulfill electoral promises in areas which, then as now, cause most concern to the U.S. people: energy, unemployment, inflation and foreign debts. On the international side, the expectation created about an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union is still unfulfilled, as can be seen in the impossibility of signing the SALT-II agreement, in the abrasive exchanges at the Belgrade conference, and finally in the dangerous development of events in the African Horn. On the other hand, the problems which existed with the 14 countries with which the Nixon administration maintained no diplomatic relations remain unsolved. In this regard, the efforts underway to normalize relations with the PRC, Cuba and Vietnam have special significance.

Regarding the main initiatives to lessen conflicts and tensions that in various places endangered peace and international coexistence, the Carter administration did not make any decisive contribution toward some promising progress in the problems affecting Rhodesia, South Africa, Angola, Ethiopia, Somalia and Northern Ireland. As for the Middle East, it must be recognized that, having lost the initiative of the move toward peace, Carter managed to get on board the train of events set in motion by President Anwar as-Sadat and played a positive catalyzing role.

As far as Latin America is concerned, the inexperience of the new U.S. Administration ran into the same kind of surprising realities as it did with the European governments. But in both cases, the intelligent capacity to learn and the political fair play, demonstrated by the review of bloc politics and its timely and gradual replacement by stronger bilateral relations, are there.

The Panama Canal question and the trip recently made by President Carter are good images of a style which neither he nor the world have managed to adapt to: generosity, good faith, sincerity of purpose--Carter's undeniable traits. This style justifies the approval and hope that people continue to place on the Carter administration's contribution to the improvement of international relations. However, the inexperience, the hastiness and the sense of self-sufficiency, which are always natural in newcomers but manifested to an abnormal degree in Carter, continue to undermine the potential of most of his initiatives. What can be said at the end of this first year is that, if the successes have not been many, at least the mistakes have been corrected in time, with acuity and good sense. And so we can look forward to a mandate with positive results.

ARMY DENIES REPORTS OF FRG TORTURE TRAINING

PY260029Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1857 GMT 25 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Jan--Reports emanating from Bonn that Brazilian officers were given training in torture by the FRG Army were dismissed today by the Brazilian Army. The reports were issued by SPD Deputy Karl Heinz Hansen, who alleged that the FRG Army is currently training 166 military personnel from other countries, personnel whom he called "torturers."

"Reports of this sort," the Brazilian Army responded, "are the result not only of the ignorance of Europeans about what is really going on in Brazil, but also of the existence of bad Brazilians on European soil, those who are dissatisfied with their situation and who take it upon themselves to discredit Brazil's image abroad."

ARMY MINISTER TO SEEK ARMS SALE TO URUGUAY

PY251308Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Itamaraty has revealed that the presence of the army minister in the delegation headed by President Ernesto Geisel, which will visit Uruguay beginning today, is connected with the possibility of selling to that country conventional military equipment necessary for the replacement of military materiel and for the protection of the internal peace, not to promote an arms race on the continent.

MAGALHAES PINTO DISCUSSES CANDIDACY WITH PRESS

PY232237Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jan 78 p 2 FY

[Text] Senator Magalhaes Pinto announced in Belo Horizonte yesterday that by the end of the month he will reveal his running mate to vie with the Figueiredo-Chavez slate for the ARENA nomination as candidate for the nation's presidency. He added that the name of his running mate is being studied with the assistance of "friends in the military reserves."

He was received at 1305 yesterday at the Pampulha airport by politicians and people just like in past electoral campaigns. He met with the press in the departure lounge and refused to answer questions about the names of active duty military officers who support his candidacy. He only said: "I have support in the military area, but I will not give names."

The former Minas Gerais governor hopes that his adversary in the ARENA convention, Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, would "use his influence on his followers and the party" to stave off maneuvers against him, as is happening in the campaign to sign convention delegates in support of the official candidate.

Affirming that he will go to the nation's president if necessary to denounce unethical maneuvers against his candidacy, Senator Magalhaes Pinto stated that he does not accept the argument that his decision to run for the presidency is causing conflicts or attritions in the country "because my candidacy was launched first and the attrition is caused by maneuvers such as the collection of signatures of convention delegates in favor of the official ticket--a practice which does violence to the secrecy of the vote, and which is being denounced in the press."

The Minas Gerais senator believes that "such maneuvers are not approved of either by military officers or by civilians," vehemently condemning ARENA for such maneuvers. Nevertheless, he affirmed that his candidacy is "irreversible" and that he would not withdraw it under any condition. Referring ironically to General Figueiredo, the senator said that he always fought for direct votes; that he has the support of the population; and that he therefore will not go to the ARENA convention with just his "curriculum."

Magalhaes Pinto talked again of his reform program to journalists, politicians and a large number of people who watched and even participated in the interview in the airport lounge. The first measure he intends to adopt is the cancellation of the so-called "April package" and a reduction in the presidential term from 6 to 5 years. "I will not cancel it; I will ask the Congress to do it because I am not a dictator," Magalhaes said sarcastically.

Demonstrating much irritation with ARENA, but without predicting any possible personal vendetta within the party, the Minas Gerais senator also criticized the five officers of the High Military Command who have declared themselves in favor of General Figueiredo's candidacy: "I believe that officers in active service should not state any position because military regulations forbid them to, but it is not up to me to judge them; it is up to their superiors."

However, as to the other five officers of the High Military Command who have kept silent about the official candidate, Magalhaes commented: "I would like them to consider supporting me."

DELEGATION TO DISCUSS TRADE PROBLEMS WITH IRAN

FY241316Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 FY

[Text] A high-ranking diplomatic delegation headed by Itamaraty's secretary general, (Faraiva de Melo), will go to Iran on 13 February. This delegation will try to smooth out problems which are delaying implementation of the trade agreement signed between the two countries in July, 1977 during Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen's visit to that country. According to Itamaraty, those problems stem from the recent replacement of the finance minister in Iran.

NUCLEAR QUALITY INSTITUTE NEARS OPERATION

FY251306Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Angelo Calmon de Sa has announced that the institute for quality control of nuclear equipment will start to operate in Sao Paulo by the end of February this year. The institute will issue quality certificates for equipment to be used in nuclear plants, whether that equipment is national or imported.

BRIEFS

URANIUM RESERVES--Brasilia, 24 Jan--Paulo Nogueira Batista, president of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEBRAS], stated here today that Brazil's uranium reserves total 70,000 tons and are sufficient to supply its nuclear program. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1839 GMT 24 Jan 78 FY]

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE

Argentine Reports Labelled 'Smokescreen'

PY241332Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY

[Station commentary]

[Text] What you have just heard is what Argentine radios broadcast this morning about the Beagle Channel issue. The curious thing, the specific issue involved here, is that there is nothing to argue about concerning the Beagle decision. All the islands, islets and rocks have been, are and will always belong to Chile. In this regard these [Argentine] reports are a kind of smokescreen to cover rejection of the British decision, since this rejection will of course have a negative international effect. The issue in question here is jurisdiction over waters south of the Beagle Channel--that is, what we are discussing here is the 200-mile maritime limit and nothing else.

EL MERCURIO Comment

PY251358Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0306 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, 25 Jan--EL MERCURIO newspaper stated here today that the Argentine rejection of the Beagle Channel arbitral decision is an affront to the dignity of the arbiter, insults the majesty of the arbitral treaty, and is a serious blow to Chile. The morning newspaper's editorial said the Argentine rejection of the decision is confirmed, and that "this represents repudiation of a sentence which both parties are obliged to respect."

EL MERCURIO said that "the people of both countries and world public opinion should be well aware of the seriousness of the Argentine rejection." It added: "This rejection, for which Gen Jorge Rafael Videla's government is responsible, nullifies not only the decision and the arbitral authority itself, but also the actions of previous Argentine governments." The newspaper continued: "it is very unfortunate that the Argentine Government has placed itself in a position so contrary to international law and to its agreements." Finally, the newspaper said that "it is not Chile's duty to compromise, but rather to defend all its rights as specified in the British Government's arbitral decision."

Beagle Summit Planning Continues

PY251340Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The press secretariat has reported that the date and site of the meeting between Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla and Chilean President Augusto Pinochet will be disclosed to the public at the proper time. This secretariat reported that these two points are still being discussed by the two governments.

Chilean Government sources reported that the presidential meeting may not take place on Thursday or even during the present week. They said that what is important is the results of this meeting and not the date on which it is held.

It was also learned that the Argentine and Chilean armed forces chief of staff offices are studying the documents discussed during the Mendoza meeting.

It is believed that the Chilean command has already finished this study. Furthermore, there are rumors circulating that the Chilean envoy who is reportedly carrying these studies has already left for Buenos Aires and that the Chilean side is awaiting an answer from the Argentine command.

Mineria queried a high-ranking Chilean Government official who said that he believed there is a good disposition on both sides to arrive at an agreement.

The Press Secretariat adds that any reports from Chile abroad regarding this meeting are not official.

BRIEFS

UNDER SECRETARY APPOINTED-- Col (Roberto Soto McKenny) has been appointed Foreign Ministry under secretary. He replaces the present Deputy Foreign Minister, Enrique Valdez Puga. The new under secretary will assume his duties on 2 February. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY]

NAVY COMMANDERS APPOINTED--CPT (Sergio Mendoza Rosa) has been appointed commander of naval aviation, replacing CPT (Oscar Aranda Valverde) who has been appointed commander of the Puerto Montt Naval Base. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY]

AIR FORCE PROMOTIONS--An official report from the Defense Ministry has listed the following promotions in the Chilean Air Force [FACH], to be made effective 2 January: Gen Sergio Leigh Guzman, general director of civil aeronautics, to major general, Col (Georgy Rene Esquivel Clercrick) and Sergio Zamuesa Lopez) to Brigadier General. Brig Gen (Orlando Gutierrez Bravo), former director of engineering and maintenance of FACH, has retired. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY]

LARGEST COPPER BUYERS-- The Chilean Copper Commission [CODELCO] has released a report stating that during the period January-November 1977, Brazil was the second-largest individual buyer of Chilean copper, having bought 151,500 metric tons. The FRG was first, although showing decreasing purchases. Japan was third, having bought 95,500 metric tons during that period. Production during the same period reached 961,700 metric tons, compared with 914,000 metric tons in the same period in 1976. Out of the 1977 production, 825,300 metric tons [as heard] came from large-sized mining enterprises and 147,000 metric tons came from medium-and small-sized mining enterprises. Exports during the period reached 893,900 metric tons, compared with 901,400 metric tons in 1976. The amounts regarding production and exports do not agree because sales are committed 1 year ahead. Exporters by continent show Western Europe as first and the American continent as second. Asia shows increasing purchases of Chilean copper. Main buyers were South Korea, Malaysia, Ceylon, the Prc, Japan and Turkey. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY]

9,209 OFFICIALS TO BE ELECTED ON 26 FEB

PA240433Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0145 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 23 Jan (EFE)--The Colombian Government today fixed at 9,209 the number of parliamentarians, deputies [as received] and councilmen to be chosen in the 26 February elections. The figure has been increased by 10 deputies as compared to the 1974 elections, when President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen was elected. Officially, the government approved the election of 112 senators, 199 representatives, 416 deputies, 8,411 municipal councilmen and 41 municipal advisers.

The 26 February elections will only choose the members of public institutions, while the June elections will choose the president of the republic. This electoral separation was included in the amendments to the system, approved by parliament late last year and later enacted into law.

ANAPO URGES ABSTENTION IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

PA210340Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The National Popular Alliance [ANAPO] today ordered its members not to take part in the 26 February elections and appealed to all dissatisfied Colombians not to participate in what it called the grossly criminal charade. The ANAPO director said that this abstention, which will be deliberate, cannot be construed as a truce in the struggle, but must be another step in the irrepressible revolutionary process.

Maria Eugenia Rojas de Moreno Diaz, director of the ANAPO, said at a news conference that an extraordinary ANAPO congress had been convened for Saturday, 11 March 1978, to elect the candidate who, above and beyond partisan interests, will consolidate the people's protest and fulfill the national aspirations. The ANAPO will vote for this candidate in the presidential election of 4 June, 1978, she said.

WORKERS CONFEDERATION APPROVES NEW PRESIDENT

PA212236Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Villeta, Cundinamarca Department--Manuel Felipe Hurtado, a labor leader from Valle del Cauca, early this morning was confirmed as president of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CTC) to replace Gustavo Diaz Raga, who unexpectedly presented his resignation at the third national plenary meeting of this labor organization. Hurtado belongs to the Conservative Party.

There were very few changes in the executive committee of the CTC. The members of the committee are: Manuel Felipe Hurtado, president; William Salazar, first vice president; Oscar (?Rabe), second vice president; (Afechi Desalvi), secretary general; Alvaro Castro, organization secretary; Tomas Eraso Rios, finance secretary; (Gustavo Serpa), comptroller; Pedro Julio Caro, secretary for disputes; Ramon Africano, education secretary; Pedro Pablo (Manllo), secretary for agrarian affairs; Teresa Valencia Morales, secretary for women's affairs; Luis Angel Vaquero, secretary for cooperative affairs; Jose Torres, secretary for public employees; Antonio Mantilla, transport secretary; Ignacio Bejarano, industries secretary; Raul Belandia, public relations secretary; Tanya Rosi, proceedings secretary; Martin Gongora, international affairs secretary; Aquiles Palacio, sports secretary; Jose Garcia, hotels and tourism secretary; and Ventura Sandoval, exhibits secretary.

ARREST ORDER ISSUED FOR CHAMBER PRESIDENT

PA210217Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jan--Seventy-two hours after the arrest warrant against Alberto Santofimio Botero, president of the Chamber of Representatives, was upheld, 11th Superior Court Judge Ricardo Sanabria Nino ordered the immediate arrest of Santofimio Botero. Santofimio Botero, former justice minister and current president of the Chamber of Representatives, is a well-known leader of the Liberal Party faction that supports presidential hopeful Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. He is currently in Ibague, where the news of the arrest warrant has caused great commotion and consternation. It is possible that the arrest will take place tonight.

Meanwhile, in Ibague, Santofimio Botero has said he will present himself to Col Lucio Parra, Tolima chief of the Department of Administrative Security [DAS], at 0800 on Monday. He said he is not going to flee from justice or hospitalize himself as some news media reported.

Santofimio Botero said he had been waiting for the arrest order ever since Judge Sanabria Nino denied the appeal presented by defense lawyer Cesar Montoya Ocampo.

F-2 Criticized on Arrest

PA250333Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jan--Ricardo Sanabria Nino, 11th Superior Court judge, has harshly criticized the F-2 for not carrying out the arrest warrant issued by his court against Alberto Santofimio Botero, president of the Chamber of Representatives.

Visibly annoyed, the judge said that he has not even received a telephone call informing him of Santofimio Botero's arrest. Sanabria Nino said that the medical examination of Santofimio Botero will not be valid in his court. As a result of the judge's statements, it is believed that Santofimio Botero will be brought to Bogota tomorrow morning at the latest. It is also believed that Col Jose Miguel (Masa Marquez), national commander of the F-2, will shortly order the F-2 commander in Tolima to make effective the warrant issued by the 11th Superior Court judge.

M-19 SETS FIRES 'TO OBTAIN PUBLICITY'

PA242344Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1857 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jan (AFP)--It was learned here that the clandestine M-19 movement re-appeared today in western Colombia, burning a lumber warehouse and a hydroelectric power plant. According to workers of the lumber warehouse, located in Yumuaq, Valle Department, a dozen hooded men armed with machineguns set the fire while shouting revolutionary slogans. They then fled into the jungle without harming any of the workers.

According to police, the M-19, which kidnaped and executed labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado in 1976, started this fire in order to obtain publicity. Several days ago the M-19 made other appearances in Cali and Bogota. In Bogota its members attacked a truck loaded with chickens and distributed them in a poor district. In Cali they hijacked a truck loaded with goods and distributed them among the poor.

NEWS AGENCY VIEWS FLAP OVER ARRESTED UNIONISTS

PY232348Y Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 21 Jan 78 p 4 PY

[Editorial by Agencia Paraguaya de Noticias: "The Arrested Union Leaders"]

[Text] More than a month has passed since the arrest of 21 persons, allegedly union leaders. During the last few days, the oral and written press of our country has followed step-by-step what is happening concerning the detainees.

The Paraguayan Workers Federation (CPT) submitted a clear and concise letter of defense to the justice and labor minister. At that time, U.S. union leaders, using their worn out argument of defense of human rights, came in defense of these alleged union leaders. According to investigations carried out by this Agencia Paraguaya de Noticias, one of them belongs to the bank workers union and another to the printers union, while the others are not union representatives.

Time passed and statements from international leaders from other countries appeared such as the remarks made by a Venezuelan from the Social Christian Party [COPEI].

Then, information was sorted out and it turns out that the Christian Democratic Party, in a declaration to the press, states that these persons are political leaders of that party. Besides the international press pressure, "they brought \$5,000 to pay for the expenses of the detainees."

Now, the official spokesman of the Colorado Party [PARIA] has put on "its journalistic weapons" to defend sovereignty and the constitution, such as the freedom of unions of the Paraguayan workers.

After making these comments, we believe that the law of our country must not be either pressured or subdued by persons who do not know the situation here.

We believe that the CPT is paying a high price to belong to international organizations. We must first look into our homes, so that our children will sleep happily.

SUBVERSIVE TAKES ASYLUM IN COLOMBIAN EMBASSY

PY241239Y Asuncion KOY in Spanish 24 Jan 78 p 11 PY

[Excerpt] Maria de Jesus Caballero Legal has sought asylum at the Colombian Embassy in Asuncion, according to a communique delivered to the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry yesterday by the Colombian Embassy.

Colombian Ambassador Alberto Montezuma Hurtado personally delivered the communique to Minister Alberto Nogues. The embassy also reported to the Colombian Government that Maria de Jesus Caballero Legal had sought asylum at the embassy.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON BORDER PROBLEMS WITH ECUADOR

PA251201Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0321 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 24 Jan (LATIN)--Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente today expressed his hope that the border delimitation problems between Peru and Ecuador will be overcome in accordance with the treaties in effect between the two countries. "We have hopes that through diplomatic dialog all the problems related to delimitation will be overcome," he added during an informal news conference at the Lima Municipal Palace. He said that since "a cordial agreement" was reached in the military sector following a meeting between the chiefs of staff of the Peruvian and Ecuadorean armies, "we must also find a cordial solution" in the diplomatic sector.

De la Puente indicated that the foreign ministries of the two countries should conclude their work on the border's delimitation, although he did not specify if the Peruvian and Ecuadorean diplomats are currently holding meetings or if they are going to meet in the future.

Last week there were armed incidents between Peruvian and Ecuadorean soldiers which gave rise to the release of official communiques from the two foreign ministries denouncing territorial violations and attacks.

Subsequently, a telephone conversation between Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez and Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Ecuadorean Supreme Council of Government, brought about the meeting between the chiefs of staff in the border zone and the incidents stopped as a result of various military orders issued in the area.

CHIMBOTE IN DISPUTE OVER 13 JAN STREET DISORDERS

PY181723Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[All names phonetic]

[Text] Chimbote councilmen disagree with remarks made by Chimbote Mayor Marcos Perez that Lt Col Luis Caceres, ret, general manager of the Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprise [SIDERPERU], is responsible for the street disorders which occurred on Friday.

The councilmen expressed absolute disagreement with the mayor regarding the alleged responsibility of SIDERPERU's manager. This statement was made by Victor Ulyen Velesmoro, director of the culture department. He indicated that the city council held an emergency meeting the day before yesterday to study the mayor's remarks, to safeguard the city council's [word indistinct]. A decision was finally reached that the mayor's remarks were personal.

Mayor Perez had revealed that the provincial council had agreed that SIDERPERU's general manager was responsible for the unfortunate events on Friday which caused the death of one person.

Ulyen said that there was no agreement on this problem. The remarks do not coincide with the ideas and thinking of the (?council). He said that this situation was studied by the following councilmen: Erasmo Calderon, Efrain Roman, Percy Robles Ilovich, Enrique Veregazumale, Alberto Moreno Gonzalez, Jose Geronimo and Oscar Compas.

The city council, however, agrees with Mayor Perez that a solution should be found to the problems which are affecting the city. According to labor circles, the positions represented by the attitude of the mayor and others linked to the extreme left portend a climate of agitation among workers.

Calm Returns

PA260436Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0341 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 25 Jan (EFE)--Calm has returned to the Peruvian port and steel center of Chimbote, 400 km north of Lima, following Monday's violent disturbances. During the 23 January disturbances stores were looted, public and private property was damaged and clashes took place with the police. Several persons were injured. The number of injured persons was not specified in an official communique released today.

The communique, issued by the commander of the security subzone of the north-central coast, indicated that the disturbances occurred under the pretext of the nationwide strike announced for 23 and 24 January by the communist leaning General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP). However, the strike had been suspended a few days earlier. The strike [has receded] and disturbances led the Peruvian Military Government to suspend rights in Chimbote for 30 days and to decree a curfew from 2100 to 0600. Members of the navy are patrolling the city at night.

Tense Calm After Curfew

PA251707Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1214 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Chimbote, Peru, 25 Jan (LATIN)--There was a tense calm today in this northern port city of 250,000 inhabitants after the first day of a "curfew" which was imposed after an "emergency" was called on Monday and individual guarantees were suspended in the wake of violent disorders in connection with a steelworkers strike which is already in its 7th week. The "curfew," in effect between 2000 and 0600 local time (0100 to 1100 GMT), was ordered by Frigate Captain Augusto Lavalle del Castillo, commander of the center-north coast security subzone.

On Monday night, Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez' government declared a "state of emergency" and suspended all citizens rights here after order was disrupted resulting in two persons being seriously injured. "Violence in connection with the steel plant strike has resulted in 2 deaths and about 10 persons injured on the 13th during a clash between civilians and uniformed personnel. Since that date, a climate of permanent agitation has reigned in this port, 450 km from Lima," states an official communique.

PDC ON NONPARTICIPATION OF ILLITERATES IN ELECTIONS

PA252257Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 18 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Christian Democratic Party declaration issued on 17 January 1978 in Lima]

[Text] 1. On 26 November 1977, the party sternly criticized the decree law on the constituent assembly insofar as it establishes the nonparticipation of all adult illiterates, which, in addition to violating the universal declaration of human rights, specifically leaves a vast sector of peasants and urban workers without a voice or vote when a decision is about to be made regarding the agrarian reform and the labor community, among other conquests of the Peruvian revolution. [paragraph continues]

It also blocks the direct participation of popular organizations in the election of the constituent assembly members and precludes the popular consultation through a referendum or plebiscite proposed by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] to decide whether or not the principle reforms and measures carried out between 1968 and 1975 should be incorporated into the new constitution.

The national plenum has thoroughly considered, on the one hand, the perils of a constituent assembly distorted as a consequence of the above deficiencies to a point that doubts could be cast regarding its true representativeness and the legitimacy of the constitution it approves and, on the other hand, the risk that the sectors permanently attempting to destroy the work of the revolution may seize control of the assembly.

Consequently, the national plenum, after consulting with all the departmental plenums, has decided that the party will register with the National Electoral Tribunal and will participate actively in both the electoral struggle and the work of the constituent assembly.

2. The plenum has also considered that the hazards mentioned above, and which it is unnecessary to repeat, can only be overcome if all the revolutionary sectors that become a part of the constituent assembly, without renouncing their own individuality, channel their political action toward obtaining access to the assembly for the alienated sectors so that they may contribute to the common effort of drawing up a constitution that will outline all the essential points of the conquests achieved and open the path to new conquests.

3. Loyal to the popular vocation with which it emerged 22 years ago, the PDC, which made its ideological contribution to the revolutionary effort carried out from 1968 to 1975 and which openly offered political support for the work accomplished since it was in line with its own ideals, reaffirms its determination of continuing its relentless struggle for all the people of Peru, particularly in favor of peasants, workers and employees, the inhabitants of shantytowns and all depressed [deprimidos] sectors until they achieve the invariable goal of all their revolutionary efforts, that is, the establishment of a social order based on: an economy geared to the needs of man; social fraternity among equals; the participation of all Peruvians as a political sign of a true democracy; and a moral reevaluation as a background for a united order without injustices, frustrations or discrimination.

Lima, 17 January, 1978.

[Signed] The national plenum of the PDC,

Hector Cornejo Chavez, L.E. No. 2782004. J.M. de la Jara 246, Miraflores

AGRARIAN CONFEDERATION CLAIMS POLITICAL RIGHTS

PA251215Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 January 78 p 5 PA

[Letter from National Agrarian Confederation President Avelino Mar Arias and the organizational secretary, Adan Castillo Huaylla, to Ulises Montoya Manfredi, president of the National Electoral Tribunal, dated 18 January 1978]

[Text] Mr President: Avelino Mar Arias and Adan Castillo Huaylla, president and organizational secretary of the National Agrarian Confederation [CNA], with electoral registration numbers 5071666 and 0949133 respectively, legally domiciled at 327 A Miro Quesada, 9th floor, inform you of the following:

1. On Thursday, 5 January, we consulted the National Electoral Tribunal (JNE) on a matter regarding Article 27 of Decree Law 21995.

2. On 10 January, the JNE issued an answer concerning a matter unrelated to the subject of the consultation and, on the contrary, put forth arguments and issued a resolution on a matter it was not consulted about.

3. The matter on which the JNE adopted a resolution should, in any case, have been debated and resolved when the CNA applied for registration, not when it submitted a totally unrelated query.

This is very important because the JNE, by a simple resolution, would prevent a registration that requires a verdict with all the legal, juridical, political and ethical formalities and responsibilities. For example, the resolution does not carry the signatures of the responsible members.

In addition, a resolution was reached without background information; that is, on the basis of an incomplete file. Essential instruments were not at hand, instruments such as the CNA bylaws; the minutes of the Assembly of Delegates, which created the CNA, and the list of our organization's membership. With these documents, the JNE would have realized that the CNA is a social corporation in accordance with Article 1 of the bylaws, a corporation created by the decision and the will of agricultural workers.

4. The CNA was not created by law. Decree Law 19400 only dictates provisions to the effect that "agricultural workers may establish agrarian organizations." No provision creates the CNA, the peasant federations, leagues or communities, the agricultural societies that pursue social interests, the agrarian cooperatives or the agrarian associations. Article 7 of Law 19400 simply classifies agrarian organizations. It does not create them. It is a case similar to the labor legislation on unions, federations and confederations.

To classify is not to create. Moreover, Article 1 of Law 19400 leaves it up to agriculture workers to decide whether or not to form agrarian organizations.

5. The relationship between the Agriculture and Nutrition Ministry and the National System for Support to Social Mobilization [SINAMOS] and the CNA does not make our entity a state institution since the statutes of the CNA, which no one has objected to, characterize us as a social entity. Our relationship with the Agriculture and Nutrition Ministry is one of cooperation for important trade union and political purposes, established in Article 4 of Decree Law 19400.

6. Article 6 of Decree Law 19400 does not prohibit political activities, since this would be in conflict with Clause f of Article 4 of the same decree law, with government plans and with presidential statements. In his presidential message of 28 July 1977, President General Morales Bermudez said: "Popular organizations are essential because it is they that make it possible for the people to organize themselves in parties and have the opportunity to express themselves directly." Housing Minister Rear Adm Geronimo Cafferata said in Piura on 11 November 1977 that the president of the republic was calling on "this city's popular organizations to prepare themselves to participate in the constituent assembly elections." And according to a front page report published by EL COMERCIO on 6 August, Gen German Velarde Bozano, SINAMOS chief, said on 5 August 1977 that "the participation of popular organizations in the formation of the constituent assembly will be real and effective."

So if laws, statutes, presidential statements and government plans protect our right to participate directly [in the constituent assembly elections], it cannot be understood why invalid arguments are now being raised to the effect that we cannot participate.

7. In a 3 October, 1974, resolution signed by Gen Rudecindo Zavaleta, SINAMOS acknowledges that "the National Agrarian Confederation has been constituted in accordance with the dispositions established in Chapter V of Decree Law 19400." This proves that the CNA Constitution, approved in a general assembly, represents the organizational norms that will rule the institutional life of the CNA. This represents a reiteration that it is we who set our own rules, tasks and responsibilities, and that as the statute states, we are a juridic and social body and not a state institution.

In the same resolution of 3 October 1974, SINAMOS again acknowledges our political rights in the highest sense of this concept when it states: "The National Agrarian Confederation will integrate and represent the agricultural workers organized TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT TOWARD THE NATION'S SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE CREATION OF A NEW SOCIAL ORDER". The bold face passage, which is ours, establishes the high political goals of the CNA. Thus, it is absurd that a JNE decision, adopted without studying our constitution, could say that our objectives block the CNA "from participating as such in political activities" when the very opposite is the case.

8. From the ethical standpoint it is a very serious step and a transcendence of historical responsibility for the JNE to use a strange argument, obviously contrary to law, about alleged political inactivity, thereby fueling charges and unfair accusations from ambitious politicians and overbearing officials who seek to dissolve the CNA. The JNE cannot overlook that fact that Article 36, Section B of Decree Law 19400 refers to the possibilities of requesting our dissolution for carrying out acts alien to our purposes. The JNE must not go along with the policy of aggression against Peruvian peasants and the CNA. It therefore must deeply reflect on this moral problem as well as on the other legal considerations protecting us.

9. The resolution submitted to us has the following defects:

A. Our consultation was made on 5 January and answered on the 10th on the basis of a point that is alien to the consultation and which, in addition, could only be attended to at the time we applied for registration and with full documentation.

B. Although the consultation was answered (imperfectly) on 10 January, it was not until yesterday, 17 January, that we were given a copy of the document with an official note dated 13 January, all of which is incorrect.

C. The document lacks the signature of the members of the jury. We do not know who voted one way or another, the number of votes and other elementary formalities.

The document is signed only by the secretary general, who is not responsible for the resolution. Those responsible for the resolution should sign the document and publicly reveal it directly to the interested entity and to public opinion.

D. The delay in receiving the document is much more serious if we take into account the fact that the deadline for registration is 4 February.

10. To the defects in form we must add the substantial error we already have referred to. This is because if we read Decree Law 19400 we find that it does not provide for the creation of any agrarian organizations. We repeat: They are merely classified. Likewise, the banned political objectives are exclusively of a partisan nature, in which the CNA has never participated.

It must be reiterated that the resolution is based on a point not considered in the consultation which, in turn, was not taken into consideration due to haste. Again we repeat: The jury did not see and study all our documents to realize the legal nature of the CNA as a juridic body. That should have been solved only at the time our registration request was turned in.

11. And there is still more: Decree Law 21995 on the "Law of Elections for the Constituent Assembly" entails legal rules of a higher nature because it predates the constituent assembly; that is, it opens the way toward the formation of a new constitution. This superior law, which, in addition, has been accepted as a summons by the great majority of the people, established the following as an essential principle: "That all electoral processes, being one of the means for the political participation of the people, should establish the right of participation of those social organizations and independent groups that, like the political parties, are capable to expressing their views concerning the contents of the new constitution of the state."

On this basis, Article 25 permits "the organizations of professionals and workers participating in the country's various activities" to participate in the elections and to apply for registration to the JNE. The CNA is a workers organization and it cannot be discriminated against or excluded.

And something else: According to Article 25, any organization of professionals can apply for registration and can participate. There are organizations of professionals that have domestic legal status such as lawyers, doctors, architects, engineers associations and others; there is also the CIPUL [not further identified], which also has domestic legal status. All of these are juridic bodies with domestic legal status, but, at the same time, are organizations of professionals and cannot be excluded from Article 25 of the Decree Law 21995, because no distinctions can be made where the law does not make them.

Consequently, not only with Decree Law 19400; not only with the analysis of our statute; not only with the SINAMOS Resolution of 3 October 1974; not only with the presidential messages and the ministers' declarations is our right to full participation in the process for the new constitution set forth, but also in the essence, text and context, letter and spirit of Decree Law 21995, which is the "Law of Elections for the Constituent Assembly."

Therefore:

The CNA places before the JNE our reasons and considerations against the resolution of 10 January, transcribed on 17 January, so that the jury, taking into account our reasons and, above all, the law, will annul or reconsider the above-mentioned resolution, or in any case review and resolve this request together with our registration request. This is because the CNA protests a ruling on which, according to the constitution of the state and, above all, as the fundamental duty of any judge, more so an electoral judge, the defense and the reasons on the specific points of conflict or dispute must be heard, and a ruling which must be motivated, must be public and must be signed by those who assume responsibility for it. Mr President of the JNE: The right of the direct participation of the national majorities--the peasantry--is at stake. After depriving us of the vote of the illiterates and after the captivating press campaign about alleged charges against the CNA, the attempt to deprive us of the right to intervene directly--without subterfuges; without assumed or apparent names--in the important process for the new state constitution is frankly a violation of the most fundamental ethical and juridical principles.

Sincerely, [signed] Avelino Mar Arias, president; Adan Carrillo Huaylla, secretary of internal organization and coordination.

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY251355Y [Editorial Report PY] Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish at 1300 GMT on 25 Jan begins live coverage of the arrival of Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel in Uruguay on a 3-day official visit. The president's plane lands at Montevideo Airport at 1300 GMT. Following ceremonial salutes, the two presidents exchange short routine speeches, with Uruguayan President Mendez stating his hope for specific agreements and confirmation of the two leaders' ideas on cooperation. President Geisel says he is convinced the two countries will strengthen their friendship. The two leaders then leave by car for Montevideo, and the coverage ends at 1337 GMT.

TUNA FISHING AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH KOREA, NIGERIA

PY251748Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Tuna fishing by Uruguayan and Korean companies will be allowed in Uruguayan jurisdictional waters in the Atlantic. Several company-level contacts have already been made between our country and Korea to form joint tuna fishing and processing companies.

Three hundred tons of fish will be sent to Nigeria at the end of February. This is only one of the products included in the trade expansion agreement reached during the visit of the Nigerian trade delegation to our country.

In addition to Nigerian fish purchases, other products such as eggs and [word indistinct] products will be sold in an effort to boost our production.

BRIEFS

SEARCH FOR HYDROCARBONS--The seismographic ship (?Dunlop), which was contracted by the Uruguayan Government to carry out a new survey of the continental shelf in search of hydrocarbons, will arrive tomorrow. The job must be finished in 10 days and Uruguayan technicians will be on board. The data obtained will be processed in the United States and checked by technicians appointed by the Uruguayan Government. The search will cover 800 km on a 1,400 km line established by the Uruguayan Government. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY]

INTERPOL SEEKS BLACK SEPTEMBER GROUP

PA201616Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Venezuelan INTERPOL forces are looking for an international terrorist group which allegedly is in our country. The international subversive group belongs to the self-styled Black September group.

A call was made from Germany alerting our country's INTERPOL to the presence of the international terrorists in Venezuela. According to reports, the seven-member group is under the command of Carlos (Vince) Ramirez, a Venezuelan known throughout the world as the jackal. It has also been reported that the terrorist group traveled from London to Brazil and from Brazil to Venezuela. Five of the seven terrorists have been identified as 34-year-old Johann (Weinwig), 30-year-old Monica (Bridgehalvin), 35-year-old [name indistinct], 35-year-old Stephen Warner (Bullgisky) and [age indistinct] Carlos (Wongdeiken).

The authorities believe that the Black September international terrorists are operating in Latin America. They even think that the hijacking of the Ecuadorean plane that was taken to Cuba was the work of the terrorists.

VENEZUELA, FRANCE SIGN MINING COOPERATION AGREEMENT

PA241814Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela and France have signed a technical and scientific cooperation agreement in the field of mining. Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Dr Valentin Hernandez Acosta reported in Paris. As has been reported, Hernandez Acosta began an official 5-day visit to France on Sunday.

GUERRILLAS SEIZE TOWN FOR 2 HOURS

PA260245Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Barcelona, Venezuela, 25 Jan (AFP)--Twenty-eight heavily armed alleged guerrillas this afternoon "seized" for 2 hours the town of Campo Claro near this city of eastern Venezuela, 350 km east of Caracas. The 25 men and 3 women harangued the townspeople and painted anti-government slogans on the walls of the houses. This is the third incursion by ultra-leftist guerrillas in eastern Venezuela in less than 10 days.

THREE SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN CLASHES WITH 'BANDITS'

PA181941Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Three soldiers have been wounded during clashes with rebel groups in Barcelona. The first to be wounded were two [words indistinct] soldiers, one of whom is named Luis Alberto Castro (Savino). They were wounded during a clash with guerrillas in La Fortaleza, 20 km from El Chaparro.

The two soldiers were taken to the health center in Aragua de Barcelona. In the next few hours, they will be brought to the Caracas Military Hospital. The other wounded soldier was a Cazadores sergeant named Antonio (Bonsalve). He was shot when guerrillas attacked a military patrol in the vicinity of Pariaguan. The army is still combing the area to try to find and arrest the group of armed bandits who oppose the democratic government.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL REFINING CAPACITY VOICED

PA252307Y Mexico City Radioprogramas de Mexico in Spanish 1720 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] former refining manager said that the energy situation during the 1971-1977 period was highly disadvantageous because the country was compelled to import 12 billion pesos worth of petroleum products, which resulted in a net loss of 3 million pesos; that is, the complete cost of a refinery such as the one installed in Ciudad Hidalgo. He explained that this would not have happened if the country had sufficient processing capacity as PEMEX had planned and that the old policy of reducing the number of installations showed that it could be more costly than the apparent savings.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO RECEIVES NEW FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

FL242130Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to Ansa Buenos Aires 2120 GMT 24 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--New Peruvian Ambassador (Jorge Pablo Fernandini Partida) today presented his credentials to President Jose Lopez-Portillo which accredit him as Peruvian ambassador. The ceremony was held at the National Palace.

During the ceremony, the Peruvian ambassador said that cultural and technological relations between the two countries will be notably expanded.

The ambassadors of Barbados, (Oliver Jackman); Burundi, (Laurenti Nzey Imana); and of Guinea, (Raul Conde), presented their credentials in separate ceremonies minutes later.

L.A. CONFERENCE ON PEACE, SOVEREIGNTY TO BEGIN 1 FEB

FL202131Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2112 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Education Secretary Fernando Solana will inaugurate on 1 February the Latin American and Caribbean Conference for Peace, Sovereignty and Economic Independence. Afterward, President Jose Lopez-Portillo will receive at his official residence the 200 delegates from all over the world who will be attending the event.

In another area, it was confirmed that World Peace Council President Romesh Chandra will attend the conference.

BRIEFS

NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo has appointed Emilio Calderon Puig as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Panama. Calderon Puig was born in Tabasco and is a career diplomat. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Jan 78 pp 1, 23 PA]

CRITICA LINKS PENTAGON TO SOMOZA REPRESSION

PA252014Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Jan 78 p 4 PA

["Pisando Callos" column by Victor M. Franceschi]

[Text] It is the moral duty of citizens to protest whenever human rights are violated. Jose Joaquin Chamorro's violent death calls for complete repulsion by all writers at the service of the interests of oppressed nations and a renewed denunciation of the crimes being committed in Nicaragua by the Somoza dynasty under the protective and generous shadow of the Pentagon and its allies.

The assassination of Chamorro is yet another addition to the unending list of bodies buried in the name of democracy by that satrapy which, along with Haiti, constitutes an example of vileness and cowardice. The Chamorro case is an addition to the thousands of victims that have fallen after the start of "Operation Z" by the Central American Defense Council, better known as CONDECA. Under the pretext of communism, which gives the jackal insomnia, the seventh ordinary meeting of CONDECA, controlled by a large group of Yankee military advisors and called by Somoza, set its objective on the northern Nicaraguan mountains for combing operations to put an end to the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

For this military operation, the armament could not have been better: U-Corsair F-4 Pursuit Interceptors; Mustang P-51's and P-63's; Skytrain C-47 transports and Beechcraft C-45's; Sherman tanks; M-8 and M-20 armored vehicles; Nonretractible 105 mm cannon; M-3 submachine guns; Garand and Springfield rifles; calibre 88 bazookas and 60 and 61 mm mortars.

All this equipment in the hands of 3,000 combined Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Nicaraguan army troops. But nothing is known of this maneuver and what it has to do with the battered human rights to which Mr Jimmy Carter always alludes, as though these rights only involved the rotten politicians that have justly been sentenced and jailed but who (in imperialist eyes) have nothing to do with the massacred, jailed, tortured, persecuted and exploited people in Nicaragua, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic who clamor for justice, peace and liberty.

Neither are these human rights to which Mr Carter alludes respected by the Plasmaferesis businesses, the Niapsa Loan Company, the Casa Nica, Technonicalit and Concreto Pretensado, all businesses of Anastasio Somoza based on theft and the most shameful crime against the Nicaraguan people denounced by newsman Joaquin Chamorro and bravely fought by the FSLN.

WEEK OF TEST FOR TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES

PA251840Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Week of Test for the Torrijos-Carter Treaties"]

[Text] A comparison of the information appearing in local newspapers on the progress of the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties gives an impression of less uncertainty than a short 2 weeks ago. Not all the senators' visits have been to nose around the nation seeking the defects which the revolutionary government hides from no one. Some of those personalities have reaffirmed the opinion they had of the need for ratifying the pacts as negotiated because of the advantages they offer the two contracting parties and the users of the canal.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will end hearings this week and will begin to study the documents. A UPI report says the committee will give a favorable opinion for the approval of the pacts but on the basis of introducing some changes to the texts signed by President Carter and General Torrijos. The news report adds that the Armed Forces Committee, composed of staunch opponents of the treaty, will also give its report. This committee has no jurisdiction over treaties but if its pronouncement opposes the treaties and is presented to the Senate, ratification possibilities may lessen, the UPI report says.

The same source reiterates that the possibility exists that the Foreign Relations Committee will recommend that the Senate ratify the treaties. Only one doubt exists--according to the report--and that is if the Washington government is willing to accept several amendments which President Carter has rejected.

It is said insistently that the key member of the committee is Senator Howard Baker, who has announced the need for several changes in the agreements and warns of a fierce battle for ratification, even though the verbal amendments agreed to by President Carter and General Torrijos last 14 October are introduced in the treaties.

Senator Robert Byrd, the Senate Democratic Party leader, is very optimistic about ratification, if his position in the Senate is taken into consideration. He considers it a "great thing" if President Jimmy Carter and General Torrijos were to sign the agreement which they reached at the 14 October meeting in the White House. He said he had no objection to the signing of the Memorandum by the two chief executives before the Senate votes on the ratification. However, he is opposed to Senator Barry Goldwater's suggestion that Carter come to Panama to sign the agreement. General Torrijos will have to go to Washington to sign the Memorandum if Carter decides to extend a new invitation to the Panamanian Chief of Government to go to the White House.

At this time, we categorically express our opposition to General Torrijos' going to the United States for the third time in connection with the treaties. In principle, we reaffirm what we said in our editorials of 19 and 20 January for the reasons we then stated. Under no circumstances is it permissible for the U.S. senators to try to introduce new amendments which would oblige us to approve them, to call a plebiscite, which would be completely humiliating to our people.

BUSINESSMEN SEND LETTER TO U.S. SENATORS

PA251747Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 25 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 PA

[Text] (The following letter was delivered to the STAR & HERALD yesterday. It obviously had been sent to individual United States Senators on Jan. 9 by the Board of Directors of the Panama Association of Business Executives. Jan 9 was the 14th anniversary of the 1964 clashes between rock-throwing Panamanians and members of the U.S. armed forces at the Canal Zone border--editor).

"Dear Senator:

"Fourteen years ago today, twenty-two Panamanian civilians and two American soldiers died in demonstrations over the Panama Canal. In retrospect, the amazing thing is that the death toll has been so limited during the long relationship between our two countries and that the Panamanian people have endured patiently for so long a situation which is so out of place in today's world.

"By now you are all familiar with the dubious and highhanded way in which the United States took control of the canal zone in 1903, and with the arbitrary manner in which the United States interpreted the 1903 treaty, setting up a virtual colonial enclave in Panama. You also know that the Panama Canal has been one of the most rewarding enterprises the United States Government has undertaken in terms of benefits to your country: the savings to your merchant marine and navy have been enormous, the waterway has been of great value to you during two world wars and you have been able to maintain here, free of payments to the host country military bases which have more to do with your general defense needs than with the security of the canal itself. One can objectively state in regards to Panama that few countries have given you so much in return for so little.

"After practically seventy five years you still have here a territory that for all practical purposes is a colony. While colonialism in Africa and Asia is a thing of the past, the U.S. maintains in the middle of the Western Hemisphere a territory with all the conditions and trappings of a colony. The feelings of humiliation, aggravation and frustration of the Panamanian people cannot be difficult to understand.

"After fourteen years of negotiations under the administration of Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and now Jimmy Carter a treaty has been finally signed. It really is a treaty which contemplates all your interest in the waterway. We have to tell you frankly that there is a lot in that treaty that is objectionable and even humiliating from our standpoint.

"We ask you earnestly to evaluate the treaties in detail. To begin with you keep control of the waterway until the year 2000. As you surely know, the present waterway will most probably not be able to handle expected demand by the end of the century. By that time a third set of locks will most probably be needed and this project could not proceed without the consent of Panama because it would require additional waters and lands outside of the Canal Zone. So really by giving the canal by the year 2000 you are not really giving up that much. It has already been made clear that after the year 2000 you can defend the neutrality of the canal and that you will have head-of-the-line passage for your warships in times of emergency.

"Up to the year 2000 the treaty provides everything needed to operate, maintain, and defend the canal and it contains all the needed safeguards to ensure the rights and privileges of U.S. citizens working in the canal and in your military bases.

"Actually the treaty sets up the basis for a very close relationship of cooperation between the U.S. Government and our own government. During this very lengthy transition period of 22 years, one can envision economic and social development in Panama that would result in the year 2000 in a modern nation politically stable and free, with a relatively high standard of living and a good distribution of income. The transformation of our country in these coming 22 years is the best assurance of a well run waterway open to all nations during the next century.

"It is sad that the treaties have been handled in some instances in an emotional and biased way in the U.S. One gets the impression that some people have seized the issue as an adequate political football to take advantage of a national ego somewhat bruised by Viet Nam. It would belittle your great nation to make a show of force with a small country.

"Should the treaty not be ratified, or should legislative action be delayed in an unreasonable manner, or should substantial amendments be approved, social and political turmoil would occur in this country. [paragraph continues]

Other people in other lands have turned to violent means such as terrorism and sabotage for less worthy causes. As strong supporters of a free economy and a free country, we must warn you that it would be very difficult to check radical actions should this scenario materialize and that surely and reasonably Panama will welcome all the help it could get from any country in the world. We are certain that future relations with the United States would be made quite difficult should all this take place.

"We have to tell you frankly that the responsibility for future developments is yours. We feel that our country has bent over backwards in an effort to accept all your requirements.

"We urge you to take action on this matter consistent with the principles that your great country has stood for in the past and the principles you have maintained around the world.

"For the Board of Directors of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives."

Leo Gutierrez, (president), Carlos Valencia, Carlos Hoffman, Mario Rognoni, Americo Quintero, Arcelio Ducreux, Miguel Brostella, Juan Jose Garcia, Jr, Jose H. Testa, Juan A Pascual, Gustavo A. Perez, Marcos G. de Obaldia. 25 Jan 78

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISER DENOUNCES TREATIES

PA241604Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Jan 78 p 19 PA

[Article by Julio Yau entitled: "Stop to Humiliation"]

[Text] The Torrijos-Carter treaties establish the subordination of our national interests to the strategic interests of the United States through a modernized concept of U.S. vital interests in Panama and a wavering [Panamanian] policy disguised as pragmatism in the name of historical nationalism.

The conditioning of our national interests to U.S. interests does not appear clear or in its true dimensions before the eyes of the people because of the harm done to the national awareness by the excessive, unilateral and highly dangerous propaganda used for their presentation by the government sector in charge of defending the treaties.

That sector worked to embellish the fatal documents, hiding from the people the obvious and the subtle traps that the new treaties entail for the unfinished (until who knows when?) tasks of national and social liberation.

The official defenders of the treaties that had been packaged at the last minute and cleverly drafted throughout in a calculated process of gradual appeasement never made a serious analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the agreements in all their aspects. They never explained the criteria by which they could defend the disadvantages (and the traps) of the treaties in order to save the advantages for Panama. They never accepted the complaint that there are essential differences between what Panama gave and what it received in return. Instead of examining the matter in depth, the official defense of the treaties evaded discussion on matters of principle in the negotiations which would have been preventive and healthy for explaining what has been occurring since 7 September; namely, the humiliation of our national dignity!

The Defense of the treaties was mistaken in presuming that the agreements were acceptable with all their "imperfections" because of the simple fact that they were the "maximum" that Panama could obtain from the United States and that they were a sure guarantee for maintaining the process in power and for continuing the struggle for national liberation.

The disparity of power between the parties has never influenced the course of Panamanian nationalism, nor can the treaties ever guarantee the continuity of the revolutionary process. Quite the opposite is true. Those who thought this way in September are today turning around in the face of the endless caravan of senators, proconsuls of the empire, who now laugh as they see the enemy's body pass by.

They were mistaken because a visual handicap made them see the treaties as a Panamanian national reality which was marked in its beginning by a nationalist and popular policy and the participation of anti-oligarchic popular sectors in the government rather than in power. [sentence as published] They were also mistaken about the international situation of Panama, which attempted to follow an independent path within the nonaligned movement even though its role within the movement was never convincing.

Regarding the first point, it was naive to think that the United States was not going to ask for the surrender and delivery on a silver platter of the head of the process in order to smooth out rough spots and foreign [exotica] situations that were inconveniently occurring in U.S.-Panamanian relations that traditionally have recruited allies from among the oligarchy. Regarding the second point, it was naive to think that the United States was going to approve a treaty of strategic alliance with Panama and leave intact the process that adopted courageous positions in the international arena, in the nonaligned camp and its relations with countries that honor us, such as Yugoslavia, Libya, Cuba and others. It was naive to believe that the United States was going to sign a strategic treaty with Panama and permit us to maintain a nonaligned position in the Western Hemisphere.

Just the opposite! The United States asks for the dismantling of the process, including the popular power, the expulsion of the patriotic and progressive voices, as well as a coup de grace to a fragile and indecisive foreign policy. Isn't that the reason for the attacks and the decision to eliminate the Office of the Third World of the Foreign Ministry?

Panama is paying a high price for its foreign indebtedness because they demand the head of the process that permitted a certain ability of maneuvering to the progressive sectors.

Instead of weighing the real impact of the treaties on the populist process, some persons preferred to deceive themselves with the idea that the struggle will continue in better conditions in the post-treaty period, that there will be more peasant settlements, more sugar mills, more educational reforms, more relations with progressive, socialist and Third World countries, and everyone will be happy and will go spend the Sunday after ratification at the beach.

Instead of promoting a genuine popular verdict and achieving an objective evaluation through frank consultation with the rank and file who support the process which would have served to strengthen it, the government continued its policy of not using the masses as its support, losing the opportunity to educate itself and the people. It asked everyone to make a "political analysis" and not a "juridical analysis" of the treaties. They asked us not to pay much attention to the "formal" and negative aspects of the treaties, trying to play down their danger. A minister even boasted that a socialist Panama would defeat imperialism in the year 2000!

What a way of throwing the ball to future generations (until when?).

On the one hand it was said that the people are not stopped by a treaty (which is true), but on the other hand they granted such importance to the agreement (even if it was paper) that they shouted that there would be no amendments because everything had been said in Washington on 7 September.

Oh, but the United States does not deceive itself and since it is a big power and does not ask permission to enter, it does grant great importance to the formalities, the commas and the periods, the semantics, the rituals and ceremonies of the treaties. And imperialism is concrete!

Is it a superiority complex? Small town weaknesses? A lack of culture of the advisers? Fickleness of the propagandists? The truth is that the official evasions and escape to the world of illusions are always paid with the blood of the people and their vanguards.

The argument that the people are not stopped by a treaty served to make excessive concessions to the United States and even now serves to describe as "flexibility" what in the long run is not an honorable position and produces humiliations and causes endless conflicts.

So they made a "political analysis" and not a "juridical analysis" of the treaties. And what did the "political analysis" indicate? That the treaties were a step forward. But a simple step forward does not necessarily lead to the achievement, even in the long run, of our final objective which is the disappearance of both the presence as well as the rights of the United States in Panama. Curiously, the United States came out much more strengthened in the agreements. What a frivolous and ephemeral reasoning: In 1967 the oligarchy also believed that the draft treaties were a step forward in comparison with the 1903 treaty! The "political analysis" also said that the struggle is carried out in stages, which is true (and which also could have been said by the negotiators of 1967) but only to the extent that principles are upheld and better conditions are obtained for continuing the struggle in the next stage. But it happens that the principles were not defended staunchly; an overestimation was made of the "covered card" of a secret strategy the government had for post-treaty use, and the progressive persons who have backed or are backing the treaty are finding themselves on a one-way street disconcerted and lacking dialectic resources for explaining the convolutions of the senatorial caravans.

Thus, some propagandists make a false distinction between law and politics, as though the law were not a form of political expression and therefore the product of a correlation of forces, and as though politics does not boil down to legal categories. This applies especially in our case, as concerns the politics between Panama and the United States and the definition of same in international treaties subject to international law.

Is sovereignty a legal or political concept? Is the arrest of a Panamanian in the Canal Zone a political or legal action? Is it still not an arrest even though we call it a political action and the North Americans call it an exercise of the law?

U.S. armed intervention in Panama is a political-military act which may or may not be based on a contractual clause, on a right which may or may not be legal, but nevertheless has enormous political importance because in the case of an illegal and unauthorized intervention Panama could accuse the United States of aggression and, in keeping with Article 51 of the UN Charter, ask for condemnation and demand international sanctions.

Ignoring this formal "technical detail," the propagandists claimed that "it did not matter" if the United States was or was not authorized to intervene because "the United States would intervene anyhow." They forgot that the law has been Panama's principal nationalist weapon in the absence of a revolutionary movement, and that the Panamanian struggle always consisted in not recognizing any legal basis to the injustices and arbitrariness committed by the United States in the Canal Zone.

The annoyance, cynicism and discomfort which some show in regard to the law usually reveal their ignorance of it, of its role in the struggles for national liberation and its possible revolutionary applications. After all, Panama's claim to sovereignty over the Canal Zone was essentially legal in its focus and fulfilled a patriotic role up to our time without trying or needing to explain everything.

We are unconvinced by the viewpoint that the treaties had to be accepted because they were "the most" that could be obtained, since this idea can always be proposed without any logical relation existing between "the most" and "the acceptable."

The most, when it is characterized by highly injurious and shameful conditions, can only be accepted under overwhelming circumstances which force acceptance, such as during emergencies or when there are no other alternatives or solutions. That is not the case with Panama. Anyway, it was always said, at the time when students were asking for "arms for liberation if the negotiations fail," that we would sign "the treaty" and not just any treaty.

Bunau Varilla told Panamanians that the 1903 treaty was the most we could get out of John Hay and this in no way made it acceptable to the Panamanian people, although it may have been so to the dominant class. We must not forget that unequal treaties were always imposed by big powers on subjugated people in collusion with the dominant class. The negotiators in 1967 (some of whom were involved in the new treaties) said that the drafts of that year were "the most" which Panama could get and yet, the first thing this government did in the negotiations (when Juan Antonio Tack was minister) was to reject them officially on the grounds that the draft treaties did not eliminate the causes of conflict referred to by the joint declaration of 3 April 1964.

A tremendous verbal cobweb was woven around the treaties to defend and gloss over their obvious errors and wrinkles. What makes matters worse however, "the most" is now being attacked in the U.S. Senate to reduce it to "the minimum." It is also being said naively that the senatorial amendments are the best proof that the treaties are good for Panama. By the way, what is the opinion on the amendments of the international negotiations advisers of Colombia, Costa Rica and others? They have left General Torrijos alone to avoid getting involved.

The naive forget that what is essential is not the amendment of the agreements but what is agreed to in the amendment because the deciding factor is the treaties which already include a structure of specific interests and a set of parameters clearly favorable to the United States. The White House intimated this when it stated that "the amendments are not necessary." The Pentagon feels the same way.

What more do they want? Consequently, it is not a question of making a bad treaty out of a good one but of making worse an already bad treaty by including the Memorandum of Understanding accepted on 14 October by Omar Torrijos and James Carter.

The uncautious forget that in 1904 there was serious opposition to the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty in the U.S. Senate and that this did not make the 1903 treaty, imposed by the United States and approved without discussion by a dictatorial decree signed by a provisional Junta which lacked a constitution, good for Panama.

To think in such a mechanical and simplistic way would lead us to the conclusion that U.S. aggression in Vietnam was good for Ho Chi Minh and his people because there was opposition to the war in the U.S. Senate!

Is this senatorial opposition not perhaps a reflection of the U.S. fear of losing the last symbols of its predominance at the beginning of the century?

U.S. negotiating strategy always consisted of having the treaties ratified by Panama first and then modifying and amending them completely to its favor in the Senate during the period between the treaty signing and final approval by the United States. In this way amendments were incorporated with all the points not obtained in the negotiations with Panama, using intimidation, threats and blackmail as weapons.

That is how the 1903 treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate 3 years after Panama's final approval. When the process of ratification ended in Panama, the United States demanded amendments to the treaty which markedly changed it, amendments which were incorporated in a secret exchange of notes which were the condition for U.S. ratification.

That is why last September we said that the canal treaty was an "open" treaty since it still had to go through the stage of negotiations in the Senate.

The senatorial caravan has fulfilled its mission of on-the-spot studies to assess decisions on ratification and to review the state of Panamanian-U.S. relations, and this is all right.

What is wrong is that we Panamanians did not nose around in Washington before 23 October to lay down Panama's conditions or to ask U.S. politicians to confess their sins to Panamanian politicians. In contrast, the U.S. senators enter Panama as if they were in their own backyard, meddle in matters concerning state security and carry out a full-scale effort to exorcize the bad demons with which Panamanians were possessed during the revolutionary process. Meanwhile, they do not lack a secret desire to take revenge for the ugly things that were said against the United States and to teach us a lesson. By the way, the official press no longer mentions anti-imperialist phrases or reports on the zonians' conspiratorial activities. This is the privilege of great powers, but on 7 September the agreements were signed in full view of everyone. [sentence as published] On 23 October they were approved by a people who were confused and misinformed about the true essence of the agreements but, apart from our personal considerations, the national will was completely expressed. The United States should respect it.

The negotiation is closed and the senators' aspirations of modifying the agreements indicate a profound disrespect and disdain for Panama's institutions and national dignity, particularly since the amendments go beyond the matter of a conceptual clarification, diminish even more Panama's already abused status and tend to subject the great national destiny to the internal demands of the legislative branch of the United States, a veritable act of humiliating provocation!

Some years ago . Mafia singer Frank Sinatra announced that he would visit Spain. However, Sinatra did not land at Barajas National Airport in Madrid, but rather at one of the U.S. Air Force bases in Spain. Upon deplaning, Sinatra said that he had not landed in Barajas because he did not want to step on Spanish soil, but rather U.S. soil. Despite the Franco dictatorship, Sinatra was nationally repudiated by the Spaniards. All this occurred without a revolutionary process and under a facist regime.

On the other hand, Barry Goldwater, conspicuous ultrarightist representative, announced his visit to Panama, landed at Howard Air Force Base in the Canal Zone "so as not to step on Panamanian soil" and sought to humiliate us by giving a press conference within the Canal Zone in an obvious provocation against Panamanians. He succeeded. Panamanian newsmen went to the Canal Zone to see Barry Goldwater. There was no official protest communique from a government which has "gathered up the banners of January."

Of course, the Canal Zone is Panamanian territory but this was not a case of confirming this obvious fact, but a case of not swallowing the bait of provocation which sought, among other things, to measure Omar Torrijos' "flexibility" as well as the patience of the Panamanians in this phase of senatorial blackmail.

We can see in the atmosphere that tolerates such interventions with indifference and even complacency somewhat of a defeatist spirit, which tends to demoralize the national conscience with its fatalism and to weaken the patriotic sentiments of the people.

This was defeatism, fatalism, pessimism which did not allow the people to rise up, not even to confront the campaign of senatorial intimidation and blackmail with dignity. The profound demoralization of the present process is the reflection and the result of an absence of political definition with regard to the rules of the game, an absence which encouraged certain opportunistic, reactionary and proimperialist sectors to infiltrate the process and become its dominant elements.

The profound deterioration of the process is reflected in the chronology of the negotiations, particularly in their last phase. Opponents of the treaties affirmed that there existed a right to unilateral intervention, that the U.S. military rights were not limited by the treaty, that there would be no neutrality and that U.S. defense of the canal would be extended beyond the year 2000.

Official defenders of the treaties replied that the opponents were the allies of Reagan, although Reagan said otherwise to the U.S. public. The White House, on the other hand, did see things that way, because the wording of the treaties is sufficiently clear.

The government replied that there would be no amendments because everything had been said on 7 September, that the United States would not have unilateral rights for the defense of the Canal and that everything would end in the year 2000, that U.S. ships would have "expeditious passage" but that they would not go "to the head of the line." This was said by Dr. Lopez Guevara, among others, on television. However, there came the Torrijos-Carter Memorandum of Understanding of 14 October, before the plebiscite, in which the two leaders clarified these essential questions: the unilateral right of the United States (contained in the phrase: "in conformity with its constitutional procedures") to intervene (but not in "internal affairs") in order to repel any type of attack against the neutrality of the canal or the passage of ships. These rights are permanent because the neutrality treaty, which has no termination date. If the negotiators and responsible advisors had any dignity left they would have resigned when the abovementioned Memorandum was adopted.

This agreement was not duly publicized; the government said only that it "was not signed" by General Torrijos. Thereafter, supportive sectors repeatedly discounted the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding, erroneously stating that it was not binding on Panama because it was not signed. They said also that "no treaty can hold the people back" and "the United States would intervene in any case."

It now turns out that the White House, at the beginning, had said that U.S. rights were safeguarded and strengthened by the treaties. They did not require clarification. Due to Senate pressure, the Torrijos-Carter Memorandum was produced and the White House now says that it is not an amendment but a simple "clarification" of the text of the treaties. Thanks for the confirmation.

If the Torrijos-Carter agreement does not add anything new, but only "clarifies," it is obvious that the concessions, which are dangerous to Panama, were already contained in the treaties as originally drafted. And if, on the contrary, the Memorandum does not "clarify," but rather "amends" or modifies the neutrality treaty to the detriment of Panamanian interests, why was the true scope of it not explained to the people before the plebiscite? Why was it not said that the Memorandum distorted a treaty signed with all solemnity before the chiefs of state of Latin America and the world?

In view of the facts, it is clear that the humiliation dealt to Panama is encouraged and well-received by our own government and that the objective and honest thing to do in this case is to denounce both the avalanche of U.S. blackmail and the complacency of our government in submitting to it.

In addition to the abovementioned Memorandum of 14 October, the U.S. Senate--encouraged by Panamanian "flexibility" with regard to ratification--is preparing a package of amendments that are to be a condition for approval of the treaty. How far can our "flexibility" go before becoming something else?

In any case, the amendments would completely invalidate and annul the international juridical effects of the 23 October plebiscite because the treaties ratified by Panama would be very different from those that would be ratified in the United States. By the way, all these circumstances and others mentioned in a document of ours which the press did not print support our argument that there is sufficient basis for Panama to consider the treaties invalid, particularly the treaty concerning the so-called neutrality.

If the United States decides that the treaties will be approved with amendments in addition to the memorandum of 14 October 1977, and after the plebiscite of 23 October 1977, we must announce that we do not recognize any validity for the Torrijos-Carter treaties and that, as far as we are concerned, discussion of the treaties can be suspended in the United States.

The Panamanian Government has no power to revise or renegotiate what was agreed upon on 23 October, and the inclusion of amendments in the treaties presupposes a new process of negotiations, even requiring approval of the treaty by a plebiscite.

The imposition of amendments which make a bad treaty even worse has plunged the entire country into a great national crisis because this is a challenge posed by the United States to the entire Panamanian people. To look at this crisis as if it were a government or partisan problem means to wish to usurp the historical will of the Panamanian nation.

The Panamanian Government does not have the capacity, and perhaps not even the will, to confront this crisis by itself. Instead of showing flexibility in regard to the amendments, the government should have shown intransigence and should have placed the people on the alert against this new attempt to strike a blow at us. Only in this manner would the total collapse of the nationalism of the process be averted and perhaps its continuity would be maintained. However, there has been no indication of action to this effect.

We must stop the current power struggle, which has been weakening and disguising behind petty partisan squabbles the true problem faced by Panamanian nationalists, because the approval of a treaty with blackmail amendments which the people will never accept will be an event with tremendous impact that will rock the very foundations of the fatherland above and beyond those of the parties.

Let all political organizations and parties voice their opinions and mobilize within a broad, nationwide debate on the treaties and the challenge posed by imperialism in order to harden the patriotic conscience and national resistance so that we can pass the difficult test to which the United States is subjecting us! Let all political exiles return to struggle against the U.S. senators' blackmail!

The government's incapacity to confront this crisis by itself in the name of the entire people should lead to the appointment of a Council for National Salvation which would transcend partisan activities and, at the same time, take up the senators' challenge and lay the groundwork for Panama's future policy.

However, the rivalry for power seems to be of more interest to the local politicians than the high national interests.

Panama, 19 January 1978

[signed] Julio Yau--Cedula No 2-42-718 23 Jan 78

COLUMNIST ATTACKS COUNTRY'S CORREGIMIENTO SYSTEM

PA252218Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Jan 78 p 6-a PA

["Macheteando" Column by Mario Augusto Rodrigues: "Los Corregimientos"]

[Text] 1. Objections

The alleged "popular power" of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives constitutes one of the most serious objections to the current constitutional structure. The truth is that it has nothing to do with any "popular power" or anything like it, in the first place because legally the concept of "power" was eliminated by the national constitution in 1946 and replaced with "organ" for the expression of the popular sovereignty and, in the second place, because the Assembly's only important power is that of electing the president and vice president of the republic. Nonetheless, it is being questioned because its system of representation is very dissimilar and cannot be regarded as balanced or democratic. The fact that a few very small corregimientos made up of some 10 families and about 70 inhabitants may choose a representative with about 10 votes ridicules the entire institution which has been pompously described as "popular power." And the fact that the number of representatives of the various districts and provinces varies considerably with obvious advantage for minorities lessens the authority of this body, which meets 20 days out of every year only to ask the ministers why they have not looked into their petitions or requests, which usually are more personal than community oriented.

2. Fictitious Institutions

It does not require any major effort to understand that the conversion of corregimientos into "basic population cells" is totally fictitious. Corregimientos are not political but administrative divisions. Their creation has no legal basis or logic. They were created for regional conveniences or on the whim of unimportant local leaders or fifth-rate officials. It is for this reason that there are several corregimientos with less inhabitants than any small village. Several of these have so few inhabitants that they require only a few grades of grade school. Others were capriciously created by the current government in order to allow certain important populated areas--which do not yet constitute true corregimientos--to be represented at the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

3. The Nonexistents

Frankly, there are dozens of representatives who do not represent any corregimiento. Such is the case of the representative of the "corregimiento seats." There are no such "corregimiento seats." They were given that name solely and exclusively for electoral purposes. The capitals of the various districts have never been corregimientos or been divided into corregimientos. In the case of the capital city for example, Santa Ana, Calidonia, San Felipe, Chorrillo and so forth are not and have never been "corregimientos." They were and continue to be simply neighborhoods. The special district of San Miguelito was divided into a determined number of "corregimientos" exclusively for the election of representatives. Prior to this there were no such divisions. The same was done in the San Blas territory, which has corregimiento representatives that the government chose but where there are no corregidores or corregimientos of any kind.

4. Heavy Burden

For a country as small and as sparsely populated as ours, an assembly with 505 representatives constitutes an excessively and unjustifiably heavy burden particularly because each one of them wants to become a "little president" with his communal juntas and even his individual budget. Furthermore, it is an excessively large organization because it is difficult to find as many people with a minimum of the capabilities required to dignify the fulfillment of the democratic mission they should be assigned. The number of honorable representatives detracts from their quality. This is why we see situations as depressing as those of the secret sessions, the protests in defense of smuggling, the personalist claims and the ridiculously trivial things that inflame those whom others seek to flatter with the title of "popular power."

CHILEAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES

PA251842Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Chilean Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Brig Gen Enrique Valdez Puga has arrived in Panama on an official visit which will last until tomorrow. This morning he met with his Panamanian counterpart, Carlos Ozores Typaldos, and discussed subjects of interest to both nations.

BELIZE

RADIO REPORTS PRICE NEWS CONFERENCE, TALKS IN LONDON

FL260243Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Premier George Price told a news conference in London today that while Britain continues to look for a solution to the Guatemalan dispute, which would include giving a part of Belize to Guatemala, his government maintains that no land can be handed over. Mr Price, who has been having talks with British Foreign Secretary Dr David Owen, said that the British proposal would involve giving up about 1,000 square miles, including areas where there is a possibility of oil.

According to BBC's 5 o'clock newscast this evening, Dr Owen told Parliament that the possibility of territorial adjustments had been mentioned to the Guatemalans during discussions. But he added: This was only exploratory. Dr Owen reaffirmed that any settlement must be acceptable to the government and people of Belize.

In his press conference, the premier maintained that the position of Belize is territorial integrity in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. Interviewed by British television, Mr Price said that the land in the area proposed [word indistinct] was good and fertile and had about 2,000 people living there. The second of territories proposed by the British, he said, cover the area between the (Mojo) and [name indistinct] village, including keys and areas and bays of which 200 square miles were mainland territory.

The premier said although Mexico supported Belize, it might claim territory in the north if Guatemala obtains territory in the south. He went on to say that oil might be an element in the Guatemalan claim and stated he believes there were fair prospects for oil in the sea areas, although none had been found as yet.

In answer to questions, the premier said that both political parties in Belize oppose cession of territories.

Commenting on the position of the United States of America, the premier said the United States believes cession was necessary to get a settlement. He referred to the fact that Guatemala was larger than Belize, had more United States investments and recalled Guatemalan assistance to the United States over Cuba.

Asked why he could not agree to what seemed to be a minor cession of territory, the premier countered, and we quote: Why should we give up oil with areas; would Britain cede some of its area with North Sea oil?

Mr Price emphasized that he recognized the need not to increase border tensions and express gratitude for Britain's defense of Belize. The premier has asked the British Government that the issue of Belize be put directly to the people of Belize. He made the request during talks in London. With more on this, here is [name indistinct] from Belmopan:

[Begin recording] The British secretary of state, Dr David Owen, and the minister of state of the foreign and commonwealth office, Mr Ted Rowlands, held meetings yesterday and today with the premier of Belize, the honorable George Price, who was accompanied by Ambassador G.S. Courtney and Mr Assad Shoman, the attorney general of Belize.

There was a frank discussion of the problems facing Belize. The Belize representatives reiterated the position of their government that negotiations could continue on the basis of the United Nations resolutions and the territorial integrity of Belize.

The secretary of state confirmed that any settlement must be acceptable to the government and people of Belize. He said recent British discussions with the Guatemalans had been exploratory. Various proposals, including the possibility of territorial adjustments, had been discussed, but no agreement has been made or would be made which were not subject to the approval of the Belizean people.

The premier of Belize asked that the issue should be put directly to the people of Belize and that the Commonwealth should be associated with this process of consultations. The secretary of state readily agreed to both requests.

Both governments agreed that their aim was early and secured independence for Belize. The British Government will continue its search for a negotiated settlement, which has not yet been achieved in discussions with Guatemala and other supporting governments.
[end recording]

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON RESULTS OF NICARAGUAN VISIT

PA260215Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio visited Nicaragua yesterday to analyze the transportation problem with that country during these days of uncertainty following the death of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. According to the foreign minister, the Nicaraguan Government has provided all the necessary facilities so that the transportation of merchandise between the countries can continue with all normality. Foreign Minister Facio said that he also discussed bilateral subjects such as illegal fishing and the use of the San Juan River.

LA NACION PRAISES CARTER'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

PA260246Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Jan 78 p 14a PA

[Editorial: "Carter's 365 Days"]

[Text] On 20 January, upon ending his first year in office, President Jimmy Carter delivered to the U.S. people his first extensive report on his administration. The customary annual speech known as the State of the Union Address dealt with various aspects of U.S. domestic and foreign policy along with the objectives and guidelines of the current administration, which will hold office until 1981.

In spite of certain U.S. public opinion polls and surveys which indicate a decline in President Carter's popularity, the administration has obtained important achievements, particularly in international affairs, some of which are truly outstanding because they deal with matters that had been paralyzed or had been handed from one administration to another without solution.

The controversial negotiations on the Panama Canal (with the amendments and everything that a sector of U.S. public opinion seems to demand) have shown the willingness and good faith of the Carter administration to solve old disputes without delay. Although it entails risks--minor ones in any case--a decision on this issue has been better than the indecision and the haggling which led to nothing for more than a decade. A thorn has been removed from the side of America, thus decreasing tensions and irritating factors.

The current U.S. Administration has also played an important role in efforts to improve the trade conditions in international commerce and to decrease East-West tension. In the latter area, the United States expects to conclude a strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union during 1978. In the thorny Middle East conflict, with ups and downs of elation and disillusion, the government of Jimmy Carter has used all its influence and has expressed its willingness to do everything humanly possible so that the "historic occasion, perhaps the only one," which is presenting itself today, will not go to waste.

But what marks President Carter's administration is his earnest action on behalf of human rights everywhere, a concern which gives an important moral content to the efforts to achieve freedom and dignity for all human beings. This aspect of his policy, which has received much praise and some criticism, is the one which the U.S. President has personally emphasized the most.

Confronting some major problems in the domestic sphere--in the areas of unemployment and energy, among others--President Carter has been able to state, nevertheless, that the state of the union is "healthy militarily, politically, economically and spiritually," something that is not a minor achievement in current times, which are characterized by great tensions and problems. The statement, which might seem to be exaggerated and to have been made for publicity purposes, is eloquently confirmed by the plan to reduce the American people's tax burden by \$25 billion.

We wish that all nations could present such a bright panorama, which is worthy of healthy [sana] emulation.

NICARAGUA

PRESIDENT SOMOZA RECALLS AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA

PA251317Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Somoza has ordered the recall of Nicaraguan Ambassador to Venezuela Gustavo Escoto. The news was disclosed by Foreign Affairs Minister Julio C. Quintana Villanueva, who said he did not know if another ambassador would be appointed to Venezuela or if Escoto would be confirmed [confirmado].

On the other hand, Minister Quintana Villanueva said the temporary absence of the Venezuelan ambassador to Nicaragua, Gen Ramon Audelino Moreno, was considered normal because it is something which occurs frequently in the diplomatic world.

Nevertheless, the signs are that diplomatic relations between Nicaragua and Venezuela are strained. The Nicaraguan foreign minister said, however, that he has not noticed any abnormality in these relations. He said he has a high opinion of President Carlos Andres Perez and that he considers Venezuelan-Nicaraguan relations to be normal.

RELATIVES OF MISSING PEASANTS OCCUPY UN OFFICES

PA251908Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1719 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Relatives of the peasants missing in different regions of northern Nicaragua today occupied the UN offices in Managua.

"Having exhausted all possible legal means to find the true whereabouts of our relatives, we have done this to demand effective justice," said a woman to the CENTRAL AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY (ACAN-EPE) by telephone. She added that she trusted they would receive understanding and cooperation from the officials who represent the United Nations in Nicaragua. The source, who refused to identify herself, added that the group has given UN Representative Mokekan a list of demands with five basic points.

In the first place, the group is asking for the formation of a commission of representatives of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the Permanent Commission of Human Rights in Nicaragua. This commission is to investigate the following matters:

1. The accusations of the murder of and the commission of other barbarous acts committed against men, women and children and of entire peasant families in the northern and other regions.
2. The murder of opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director of LA PRENSA newspaper, until it is completely clarified.
3. Everything related to the process against political prisoners in jail, sentenced or serving terms imposed by a tribunal, with demands also made for their release.
4. The granting of broad guarantees by the government for the return of all Nicaraguans who have been exiled for political reasons.
5. A general amnesty as a step to assure an atmosphere of calm and harmony for the Nicaraguan people.

The group which has taken over the UN offices in this capital, located in Bolonia District, claims that most of the 350 missing peasants are alive in different jails of the republic.

A former collaborator of the state security service said this a few months ago to a Human Rights Commission and then took asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy.

The occupants of the United Nations offices said they had been received with understanding by the world organization's officials, who are about to inform the Office of the Secretary General in New York of what happened today.

The occupation by the relatives of peasants reported as missing occurs at a time when this capital is virtually paralyzed by a general strike of management, workers and white collar employees.

The strike is backed by six important private business organizations as well as the most powerful labor unions in the country.

TWO BIGGEST BANKS RECEIVE ORDERS TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS

PA251344Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] According to highly reliable sources, it was learned in San Pedro Sula yesterday afternoon that the two biggest banks in Nicaragua--the Bank of Nicaragua and the Bank of America--are going to suspend their operations in Managua. Apparently the order comes from above, from U.S. partners. We repeat, there has been an order to suspend or close the operations of the Bank of Nicaragua and the Bank of America.

CONSERVATIVES REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PA241910Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1551 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has submitted to the consideration of the Liberals the proposal by the Conservatives that no municipal elections be held. During a closed meeting, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal yesterday afternoon decided to submit to the consideration of the Nationalist Liberal Party the petition fielded yesterday morning by the Nicaraguan Conservative Party asking for the postponement of the 5 February elections.

The Liberal and Conservative magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, presided over by Dr Leoncio [name indistinct], **refused all contacts with the press** and did not even allow television cameras in the meeting. This is because the matters being discussed were very private and the only person who was unable to make statements was the secretary of the tribunal, Dr Francisco Melendez Gomez.

In the petition of the Conservative Party of Nicaragua, led by Dr Rene Sandino Arguello, it is considered that the present situation of political and social instability is not suitable for holding municipal elections. The Conservative Party believes that the violence unlesashed as a result of the death of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal and its sequel of [word indistinct] is the cause of the situation, which continues while the crime against the director of LA PRENSA remains unsolved.

It was learned that the Liberals have 5 days to decide if they agree with the Conservative petition.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY, UDEL ASK FOR SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION

Conservative Party Demands

PA251941Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1932 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the only officially recognized opposition group to the regime, today asked for President Anastasio Somoza's resignation.

An official communique signed by the president of that minority group, Rene Sandino Arguello, argues that the present government "is not able to offer justice, order or confidence."

"The Conservative demand coincides with the large-scale general strike underway since Monday for prompt and total justice in the assassination of opposition leader and newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

The Conservatives say: "It is imperative that an immediate meeting be held by the legislative branch to receive this resignation and appoint his replacement so that the national government's policy will be taken over by a new team of men who will take charge of the executive branch."

They also say that this team of men must have the support and backing of the Nicaraguan National Guard to restore confidence and "prepare in coordination with other branches of the state the new political and socioeconomic structure required by our present society."

UDEL Demands

PA252347Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The National Democratic Liberation Union [UDEL] today demanded the resignation of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

The curt declaration of the majority opposition coalition made up of eight political and labor organizations came at a time when the country confronts a serious crisis caused by a general strike.

Created in 1974, UDEL's first president was newsmen Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, who was murdered in this city on 10 January.

The Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the only opposition organization officially recognized by the Supreme Electoral Council, today also requested the resignation of President Somoza.

In asking General Somoza to resign from the posts of president of the republic and chief of the National Guard, UDEL accused the chief executive of "limiting congressional autonomy and creating unfair competition in the private sector."

The majority opposition coalition, headed by Rafael Cordova Rivas, said that President Somoza "has subjected the army to procedures which detract from its institutionality, promotion system and professionalism."

UDEL likewise maintains that "the policies applied by Somoza have prevented an equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth and that the alarming problems of housing, employment, health and education affecting the majority of our people continue to exist."

The leaders of the majority organization say that General Somoza should resign from the presidency of the republic and as chief of the National Guard "as a basic condition to allow the civic and organized creation of a democratic government."

The groups signing the petition are the Liberal Independent Party, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the Independent General Labor Confederation, the Nicaraguan Workers Central, the Constitutional Liberal Movement, the Conservative National Action and the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party.

GENERAL STRIKE CONTINUES, LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED

PA251633Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Text] Managua, 25 Jan (AFP)--Commercial centers, industrial plants and other working centers continued today the strike here, which began yesterday to protest the assassination of newsmen Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

According to reports received here, stores have partially heeded the order to strike in Matagalpa, Jinotega and Granada, three of the largest Nicaraguan cities. Five labor leaders have already been arrested in Managua and Masaya, a city located 30 km east of here.

In this capital, military patrols disbanded several groups of activists who were calling for support for the strike.

Banks and transportation services have continued to operate normally despite the movement to demand an indepth investigation of the assassination of the prominent antigovernment political leader. Even though the banking system announced that no strike has been authorized in the sector, the so-called Financiera de la Vivienda, the country's leading financial institution, has closed its main office and branches throughout the country.

All gas stations had been expected to close, but some of them were open today, and traffic in the city was normal with a continuous circulation of taxis and buses.

Meanwhile, government entities have continued to issue communiques stressing the need for joint action to maintain peace. The board of the ruling Liberal Party has announced a meeting of its leaders with President Anastasio Somoza for tonight at the presidential residence of Montelimar, 58 km from Managua.

The official newspaper NOVEDADES said today that "momentous decisions" may be adopted today, indicating that the decisions will be announced tonight.

Private Sector Supports Strike

PA251902Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The private sector continues to support the general strike. The chambers of construction, commerce and industry and producers of cotton announced last night that they support the general strike, decreed 3 days ago to demand justice in the case of the assassination of Pedro Jaquin Chamorro Candenal, director of LA PRENSA and opposition political leaders.

A communique issued in this regard states: In order to avoid more pain and uncertainty for the Nicaraguan family, we demand justice and we declare that, using peaceful means, we will continue to promote the establishment of a system that will guarantee freedom and respect for civil rights.

With regard to reports on the effects of the strike in several cities, including Managua, the capital, there is a pronounced halt in activities, since several private banks closed because of their employees' decision to join the strike. A large percentage of businesses have closed their doors. Only establishments that provide food and those that are separated from large commercial centers remain open.

Last night, it was reported that doctors of several hospitals had decided to stop working, providing only emergency services.

The Central American University has announced a halt in its activities in order to guarantee the safety of students and professors. The student leadership of the national university has issued a communique demanding justice and calling on students to remain in university installations.

In the cities of Leon, Granada, Chinandega, Masaya and Matagalpa, strikes are reported which also affect economic activity. The reports indicate that the strike has been extended to clinics, where doctors have not treated patients in the last 24 hours.

Radio and television stations are under pressure from management with regard to publishing information regarding the general strike. The radio station Mi Preferida was the first to be reprimanded [padecer enjuiciamiento] for partially broadcasting a message from the bishops of Nicaragua on the national situation.

Radio and television newscasts have been censored [requeridas] by radio headquarters [jefatura de radio] in the last 24 hours. The LA PRENSA has eliminated advertisements from its pages for the duration of the general strike. The same thing has occurred with news programs broadcast by radio stations in the capital.

In the interior, radio broadcasters have been advised to limit reports on the strike. In the streets of Managua, military patrolling has increased in the last few hours. Groups of vehicles with heavily armed troops are patrolling the streets. Military garrisons are under tight control.

Attempt To Open Firms Fails

PA260135Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Democratic Liberation Union, the Conservative Party, the Socialist Party, the Labor confederations and other organizations have called for an immediate meeting of the legislative branch in which it should (?demand) Somoza's resignation and appoint a group of persons to govern the country with the National Guard's support. It is necessary to reestablish peace in Nicaragua, said the groups demanding Somoza's resignation.

The National Guard today tried to force several businesses and gasoline stations to open for business but was unsuccessful.

Liberal Association Supports Somoza

PA260124Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0040 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Declaration issued by the Somozist Liberal Association on 25 January on Managua]

[Text] The Somozist Liberal Association [ALS], and organization of the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN], in an extraordinary session resolved to make the following declaration to the Nicaraguan people:

Since a group of persons calling themselves the National Strike Committee is inciting the business and industrial communities to declare a strike--with the consequent damage to the national economy--and in reply to the complaints from workers, businessmen and industrialists who are protesting against these actions, which tend to disrupt the economic and social peace of the Nicaraguan family, the ALS declares its solidarity with this large number of affected persons and urges the conscientious population not to be deceived by this group of mistaken persons, who act for the benefit of their own selfish interests rather than in the interest of the people.

The ALS, in support of the great liberal family, its national leadership and, in particular, the top liberal leader--Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, president of the republic--sends this message with the best wishes that normality will soon return to the country. It also offers its solidarity and support to the National Guard in its sustained effort to help maintain public order and the country's democratic institutions.

[Signed] Orlando Montenegro Medrano, executive president; Constantino Mendieta Rodriguez, executive vice president; Cristobal J. Mendoza R., secretary general.

PLN Rejects Resignation Demands

PA260502Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0457 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Jan (LATIN)--The government's Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN) tonight rejected demands by two opposition groups that President Somoza resign from his post. In a message broadcast over a national radio network to the country, Orlando Montenegro, member of the PLN board of directors, said that the demands made by the National Democratic Liberation Union and the Conservative Party that Somoza resign are "unconstitutional, unpopular and criminal."

SENATE MAY QUERY U.S. EMBASSY ON CUBANS' DEPARTURE

PA240230Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Senator Raul Arana Montalvan (Conservative) said today that he will submit a motion to the Nicaraguan Senate for it to send a note to the U.S. Embassy asking why the United States permitted the Cubans--who are naturalized U.S. citizens--cited in the slaying of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro to leave the country. They are Luis Casteleiro and the twins Juan and Fausto Alvarez, who together with Pedro Ramos Quiroz--another Cuban naturalized as a U.S. citizen--were the executives of the Plasmaferesis company, where the plans were supposedly made to murder the director of the newspaper LA PRENSA. Casteleiro and the Alvarez brothers took refuge in the U.S. Embassy the night of 11 January, when demonstrators burned and looted commercial, industrial and banking establishments in the North Avenue area, including Plasmaferesis. They subsequently left for Miami. The opposition senator added that he will also ask the Nicaraguan Senate to appoint a commission of honorable persons from private business, the Episcopal conference, the Congress and other sectors to conduct an independent investigation of Chamorro's murder, similar to the Warren Commission's work in the assassination of President Kennedy. Senator Arana Montalvan said that at the next session he will ask for the appointment of another commission to investigate several persons who have parliamentary immunity and whose names have consistently come up during the investigation undertaken by First District Crime Judge Guillermo Rivas Cuadra.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON INQUIRY INTO CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION

Harold Cedeno Testifies

PA211546Y Managua Radio Corporation in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Harold Cedeno, one of the suspects in the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, again testified yesterday before the court in charge of the case.

He said that he did not know who ordered the assassination of the LA PRENSA director and that the only one who knew the truth was Silvio Pena Rivas, who received the money to carry out the operation.

Cedeno asked the judge to confront the witnesses in order to determine the truth, and said that he had already stated all that he knew.

During his previous testimony before the judge, Cedeno told a number of lies, which he denied yesterday.

Nicaraguan Personalities Allegedly Involved

PA231618Y Managua Radio Corproacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--Silvio Pena Rivas, the man who carried out the plans for the assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro--the anti-Somoza politician and director of the newspaper LA PRENSA--last night confessed to a judge at Managua's criminal court that he had been paid by Pedro Ramos to kill Chamorro. Pena Rivas also mentioned Nicaraguan Congress President Cornelio Hueck and Fausto Zelaya, former Housing Bank president, as contributing money for the crime.

Pena Rivas told the judge that Ramos, general manager of Plasmaferesis, a company Chamorro had attacked through his newspaper for dealing with the blood of poor Nicaraguans, had consulted with some prominent figures in the country about eliminating Chamorro, whose death would be advantageous for many. Pena Rivas said he met Ramos more than 10 times and that Ramos told him he had the support of Cornelio Hueck and Fausto Zelaya. Pena Rivas added that former Economy Minister Juan Jose Martinez had backed out of the plot and that Carlos Dubon, Internal Revenue Department general director, did not want any part of it.

Pena Rivas told the judge that Fernando Aguero Rocha, Conservative Party leader, who was a prominent opposition leader in the 60's approved of the plan but did not contribute any money. However, he in turn expected to benefit from the plan by assuming the leadership of the opposition forces.

Pena Rivas said that Ramos told him he had a 600,000 cordobas fund to which Hueck, Ramos and Zelaya had put up equal amounts to carry out the plan, which was to be implemented in such a manner as to give the impression it was a common crime. Pena Rivas said he received \$50,000 from Ramos, but he did not specify how this money was handed over to him. He also mentioned an Italian, Luche, who went over the plans for the assassination with him.

Finally, Pena Rivas said that Ramos told him that former Economy Minister Juan Jose Martinez had backed out and that the country was full of weaklings. He did not explain why Dubon did not go along with the plan.

Personalities Deny Involvement

PA241430Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1918 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--President of the Chamber of Deputies Cornelio Hueck and Nicaraguan Conservative Party [PCN] leader Fernando Aguero Rocha today flatly denied here having anything to do with the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Hueck and Aguero Rocha, along with other political leaders, have been accused of financing the crime or at least of knowing about it beforehand.

Fernando Aguero said during a news conference: "This is infamous. My career as a man of integrity who is incapable of an action of this sort is well known by the Nicaraguan people."

Meantime, Hueck, Somoza's former righthand man and former secretary of the governing Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN], when told of the accusation against him said: "Let them call Pedro Ramos--the Cuban-American blood exporter who gave Pena Rivas money to commit the crime--and let them ask him if he knows me or if I have given him any money to commit a crime I have been the first to condemn."

Pena Rivas has stated that he did not receive any specific payment for his participation in the crime. He has also denied that there was a prior [monetary] arrangement for his participation. He told First Criminal District Judge Guillermo Rivas Cuadra at dawn today that "personal convictions and my trust in the persons who planned this were the motives for my participation."

In answer to a question from the judge, Pena Rivas said that he distributed approximately 150,000 cordobas (\$21,428) among Acevedo Chavarria, who fired the shotgun; Juan Ramon Acevedo, Acevedo Chavarria's son; Harold Cedenio Aguirre and Silvio Rene Vega, the rest of the accused. Reportedly, this money was given to Pena Rivas by Ramos, the Plasmaferesis manager who had filed a slander suit against the murdered journalist for the attacks that Chamorro launched in LA PRENSA against the blood-exporting business.

Nicaraguan news media and business organizations insisted today that the crime must be completely cleared up and the responsibility of each guilty person determined. Political leaders have said that the legal process going on is not trustworthy because of the ease with which the assassins change their versions, accepting and denying their guilty, and involving and later exonerating other persons.

Rafael Cordoba Rivas, president of the Democratic Liberation Union, stated today that "we have the impression that there is a big fish and that an effort is being made to save him. As long as the guilt of each person involved in this crime is not established, the investigations cannot be considered trustworthy."

Conservative Leader Denies Involvement

PA241201Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0150 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Fernando Aguero Rocha, a Conservative leader, said today that "only after the shaky dictatorship falls will we know the name of the intellectual author" of the murder of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. A former member of the national government junta and president of one of the factions into which Nicaraguan conservatism is divided, Aguero Rocha held a news conference today at his home in the Villafontana Hills. He called the news conference to defend himself against accusations made by Silvio Pena Rivas, leader of the group which killed Chamorro Cardenal on 10 January.

The opposition leader said that the government "wants to sully his moral reputation" by accusing him of being one of the persons who knew that the director of LA PRENSA was going to be killed. Aguero Rocha said that Pena Rivas is taken to court every day to tell a different story or to stage a "performance," "repeating what he is told."

Surrounded by his family and sympathizers who applauded his remarks to the journalists, Aguero Rocha emphasized that Pena Rivas' mention of his name in court "is an act of political vengeance that is being used to distract the people's attention from the grave events which are approaching in the country."

The Conservative leader, who was once the top opposition leader, denied knowing Pena Rivas or the Cuban-American Pedro Ramos Quiroz. He conceded that he had differences with the murdered journalist but emphasized that these were of a "tactical" nature. He said that both he and Chamorro agreed on the goal: to overthrow the present regime.

Aguero Rocha said that he will insist before local and international opinion that the name of the true intellectual author of Chamorro Cardenal's murder be released. He added that if he has an opportunity to speak with Terence Todman, U.S. assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, he will "brief him about the violation of human rights in Nicaragua." Todman will arrive on Wednesday, 25 January.

Further Report

PA251604Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1946 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Interview from Managua with Fernando Aguero Rocha, leader of the Aguerist Faction of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party--live or recorded]

[Text] [Aguero Rocha] Yesterday I held a press conference, not to deny but simply to denounce the gross maneuver of which I have been made a victim to involve me through that individual, Silvio Pena, in the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. We know who is behind this slander, and the letter which I wrote to LA PRENSA, and which I will read here, speaks for itself:

Directors of LA PRENSA Xavier Chamorro Cardenal and Pablo Antonio Quadra:

Yesterday, with much indignation, I received the news that Silvio Pena had tried to involve me in his gross declarations, which the true author of the murder has forced him to change several times. The attack is so absurd and low that it does not deserve defense, but it does show even more that the vile murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was political. Knowing the delinquency of this cruel and devastating dictatorship, it is glaringly evident that the person who gave the order for the execution was the same man who gave the same order for the peasant genocides of the north and Zelaya; the same who has made entire towns disappear; the same one who ordered the torture and death of Claudia Chamorro Chamorro; and the same man who murdered my nephew, Carlos Aguero Echeverria. Anyway, it would take too long to list the misdeeds that person has committed. The dictator believes that with this infamous plot he could commit a double murder--one, the elimination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and the other, the character assassination of myself. He thought that with this he would put a stop to the struggle I have continuously waged against his regime of terror and death.

But today, more than ever, before the body of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and the thousands of fallen in the mountains and cities of our country, we Nicaraguans are united and committed to attaining the liberation of Nicaragua.

The name of the person truly responsible for the killing of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro will be revealed when this shaky dictatorship falls, and that day is close at hand. Yours truly, Fernando Aguero Rocha.

[Question] How is the situation today in your country?

[Answer] Managua is completely paralyzed as are Matagalpa, Chinandega, the San Antonio sugar mill, Leon. This is spreading throughout the country. Nicaragua is practically at a standstill.

[Question] What is your situation right now? Do you fear an assassination attempt similar to that of Mr Chamorro?

[Answer] Anything can happen in this country. We Nicaraguans are aware of our historic destiny, and we will face any situation.

[Question] What is your opinion regarding the action undertaken by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]?

[Answer] On various occasions I have said that in the FSLN there are young people who are definitely nationalist and who, disillusioned by the lack of democracy in Nicaragua, have joined the ranks of the FSLN. I believe that when the system changes in Nicaragua, we should definitively invite these young people to join, with full guarantees, in our country's civic struggle.

[Question] What is your opinion on its form of struggle, its armed struggle?

[Answer] I believe that the Nicaraguans are a desperate people. We have been enduring one of the most anachronistic dictatorships of the continent for 45 years. Naturally, that desperation will end in violence.

Professors Demand Justice

PA252130Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Association of Professors of the National Autonomous University, Leon Branch, has joined the demands for justice in the case of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal's death. The decision was adopted by the university professors during a special meeting held yesterday in Leon, which was attended by approximately 100 professors.

University Demands Justice

PA252131Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Central American University yesterday issued a communique supporting the demand for justice in the case of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal's assassination. The following is a part of the communique: The Board of Directors of the Central American University, conscious of its commitment to the Nicaraguan people, [word indistinct] (?to whose service it is totally devoted); aware of the fact that one of the chief reasons for the existence of a state or a government is to administer justice in order to attain and maintain the common good; aware of the fact that a breakdown in justice weakens all mechanisms required to govern the republic adequately; and aware of the fact that such a breakdown leads the entire country to chaos, distrust, instability, abuses and social corruption, emphatically asks the government and the citizens who control the country's life:

1. To restore and enforce human rights and other democratic institutions, to which we Nicaraguans are entitled. It asks for an investigation into the criminal acts which resulted in the death of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal.

Fausto Zelaya Denies Involvement

PA252138Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] In a letter to Luis Pallais Debayle of the newspaper NOVEDADES, Dr Fausto Zelaya Centeno has emphatically denied having any links with the assassination of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. Among other things, Zelaya says: I am out of the country on purely family business. I am not hiding, but carrying out normal activities.

Very truly yours, Fausto Zelaya. Los Angeles, California.

FSLN Issues Communique

PA252300Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] made new and serious charges in a communique released today in Managua. Following is the text of the communique:

Nicaraguan Revolutionary Army; From the General Secretariat of Nicaragua's Revolutionary Army, the FSLN, to the conscience of all the peoples of the world:

Subject: Official communique on the vile assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. Date: 22 January 1978.

1. Loyal to our national liberation movement's habit of issuing completely factual information, we state the following:

a. We have evidence that a few days before his death, Dr Chamorro was getting to the bottom of a matter so disagreeable to any human mind that Somoza's tyranny trembled at the mere thought that the ominous reality would be publicly denounced, as was to be expected judging from Dr Chamorro's journalistic career.

b. Dr Chamorro had confirmed a denunciation that more than 350 peasants had been slain by the so-called National Guard of Nicaragua. These denunciations, which were accompanied by full names, were made by U.S. and Canadian priests of the Maryknoll Order and later by the newspaper LA PRENSA.

c. More than 3,000 peasants--men and women and children--were atrociously murdered. These figures correspond to the investigations carried out by Nicaragua's Revolutionary Army. The common graves found in the areas of Rio Blanco, (Guadalupe) and others in the northern part of the country are silent witnesses to all this.

d. In recent months the peasants assassinated in the northern part of Nicaragua in the departments of Matagalpa, Jinotega, Esteli, Zelaya and so forth were bled dry by the monstrous firm known as Plasmaferesis, which then processed and exported their blood to the United States. The Somoza and Batista worms were coowners of this firm until it was destroyed by the Nicaraguan people. Men, women and young children were subjected to cruel and violent blood-taking processes. Their blood was totally extracted in what became the most tenebrous and bloody orgy to which any people on the face of the earth have been subjected since the horrors that characterized Hitler's tyranny.

E. Fearful that Dr Chamorro would obtain evidence of these terrifying actions, the tyranny decided to silence him forever. This information has been confirmed by our espionage service and implicates Col Alesio Gutierrez, one of Somoza's deadly agents, who is in charge of Managua's police. In this censurable action, Gutierrez was the adviser of members of the Somoza clan specifically of Jose R. Somoza and Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, half brother and son of the tyrant respectively. All of them maintained close contacts with Silvio Pena Rivas, who coordinated the assassination.

2. The Sandinists--that is, all true Nicaraguans--deeply regret the vile assassination of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. We believe this crime represents perfectly the bloody tyranny that has oppressed us. We believe this crime is the result of 50 years of oppression for which those who have helped maintain the tyrant, living in perfect symbiosis with his vices, are equally responsible.

3. In order to completely end this reign of terror, the Nicaraguan people, whose armed vanguard is the Sandinists, no longer have any other alternative but to declare a national war against those who have betrayed the fatherland.

Free fatherland or death; we shall overcome!

[Signed] Carlos Aguero Battalion, FSLN.

RADIO STATION CLOSED FOR VIOLATING RADIO CODE

PA251203Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0226 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The local radio station Radio Mi Preferida was closed today by order of Nicaragua's chief of radio and television.

After the radio station was taken off the air this morning, Station Manager Manuel Jiron was summoned to the office of radio and television chief, Col Alberto Luna.

According to Jiron, a trail opened at the radio chief's office for his alleged violations of the radio code, a legal instrument known here as the "Black Code."

The reason for Jiron's trial is that one of the station's newscasts transmitted part of the Nicaraguan bishops' latest pastoral letter, which says: "We cannot remain silent when a valuable section of our people, part of our youth in schoolrooms and in the countryside, only glimpses patriotic solutions through the raising of arms."

According to Jiron, when he appeared before the chief of radio and television he made a lengthy deposition and was subjected to an equally lengthy and varied interrogation.

Jiron added that he is being accused of interfering with the signal of Estacion Equis, a radio station owned by President Somoza, and that this is the reason why his radio station was closed.

Nonetheless, he added that "I am aware that this is an act of reprisal or pressure on the part of the government in order to force a change of tone in the news broadcast by the station."

The radio station owner announced that Radio Mi Preferida will be off the air "by order of the radio chief's office until its equipment is adjusted and it stops interfering with the other radio station."

RADIO CITES ETHIOPIAN POSITIONS ON CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA

FL260050Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Representatives of the United States, France, West Germany, England and Italy will meet in London next week to discuss support for Somalia in its aggression against Ethiopia. The first meeting of these five NATO-member countries was held in Washington last week for the purpose of internationalizing the conflict in the Horn of Africa.

The public statements from the meeting have been interpreted in Addis Ababa as a tacit backing of the Somali invasion of Ethiopian territory. An Ethiopian Government statement of 22 January points out that the call made by these nations for a negotiated settlement of the conflict is a hypocritical action and an organized backing of Somalia's aggression against Ethiopia. The Addis Ababa government statement indicates that a genuine position in favor of peace in that region should have been expressed by the nations participating in the Washington meeting in a request for immediate withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopian territory.

Ethiopia today likewise condemned the intention of several reactionary Arab countries of getting involved in the domestic affairs of African countries. In a statement released by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, it is emphasized that such intervention constitutes a serious threat for Africa which will entail serious consequences if it is not rejected in time.

The slanderous statements which Somalia's official representatives are now making against the Soviet Union, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement adds, are designed to deceive world public opinion on the expansionist objectives of Mogadiscio's leadership circles. Furthermore, it says, they are trying to justify the open armed aggression unleashed by the Somali leadership in violation of the recognized principles by which sovereign states are guided in their relations.

Commentary on Conflict

FL260205Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Excerpts] What is happening in Ethiopia and why is that country, with more than 1 million square km and 30 million inhabitants, today the center of a serious crisis in the so-called Horn of Africa?

The Ethiopian people are facing backwardness, poverty and underdevelopment--left to them by a feudal regime led by a bloody and cruel emperor--amid a civil war provoked by large landowners, noblemen and bourgeoisie allied with imperialism, attacked by Somalia and blockaded from abroad. In order to understand this situation, one has to refer to the Ethiopian past and present.

Ethiopia was dominated for thousands of years by a feudal class that in the last 50 years was represented by Haile Selassie I--king of kings, elected by God, lion of Judea, and descendant of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. In a country that is eminently agricultural, 65 percent of the land was in the hands of a royal class consisting of a few families; 30 percent belonged to the superior hierarchy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; and only 5 percent was left for the millions of the country's peasants. Per capita income was \$60 per year. The illiteracy rate in Ethiopia was between 95 and 100 percent. Out of an estimated 8 to 9 million school-age children, only 500,000 were able to attend school.

A country with 30 million inhabitants, it had only 6,000 university students--all of them the sons of noblemen and the big bourgeoisie. We must remember Fidel's description: In Ethiopia, imperialism and neocolonialism left 150,000 lepers; 450,000 with tuberculosis; 6-7 million with malaria; 14 million with eyesight diseases; and only 125 doctors in the entire country.

On 12 September 1974, Haile Selassie was arrested and dethroned by a military movement that immediately became a great popular revolution. The 3,000-year old empire was disintegrated in 3 days.

The Ethiopian revolution has made more changes in these 3 years than those made in a 1,000. Under the leadership of Mengistu Haile Mariam, profound and radical transformations have been made in the agriculture, economy, education and other fields. Rural associations, people's government organizations, labor and peasant militias have been created. Women have been liberated and measures taken to protect children. Banks, financial and insurance institutions, and private industrial and commercial enterprises have been nationalized. The privileges of royalty have been abolished. The 1955 constitution, which gave full powers to the emperor, was repealed and parliament, which was an exclusive instrument of Haile Selassie, was dissolved.

In other words, a real and profound revolution was undertaken, and this has unleashed the fiercest internal class struggle and the furor of imperialism, which wants to guarantee its oil route and prevent a triumph of the Ethiopian revolution and its contagious example.

Internal counterrevolutionaries and Arab world reactionaries have declared war on the Ethiopian revolution. Prince al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia has said that Ethiopia should be cut to pieces and distributed and its revolution drowned in blood.

This is the reason for the reactionary and imperialist offensive against Ethiopia and for the Somali aggression and imperialist maneuvers to stop the Ethiopian people. The history of this process has been set forth by [PCC secretariat member] Raul Vades Vivo in his book: Ethiopia, the Unknown Revolution. The book constitutes firsthand material on what is happening in the Horn of Africa today. That is why solidarity with the Ethiopian people is a revolutionary duty and an honorable and worthy task of proletarian internationalism.

FOREIGN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOZAMBIQUE

FL251735Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Maputo--A Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry delegation has arrived in this city to discuss expanded cooperation with Mozambique. The delegation is headed by Juan Moro, director of the Trade Policy Department of the Cuban Ministry, and it includes seven other Foreign Trade Ministry officials and technicians.

In statements to the press, Moro asserted that the purpose of the visit is to expand the bonds of friendship and cooperation that already bind the two countries.

Almeida Matos, director of foreign trade of the People's Republic of Mozambique, received the visitors at the air terminal on behalf of his country's government.

NICARAGUAN SITUATION FORCES CANCELLATION OF TODMAN VISIT

LD260014Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The prevailing political situation in Nicaragua has forced cancellation of a visit which Terence Todman, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, was to have made today.

Nicaragua continued to be semiparalyzed today by a general strike in which 80 percent of the country's labor force is involved. The national strike, backed by the trade unions and private sectors, is the climax of anti-Somoza demonstrations that have been staged since the assassination of opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

National Guard troops are patrolling the streets of Managua and tearing up posters calling on the people to join the strike. The repressive police of the dictator Somoza have closed several radio stations, and it has been reported that several labor leaders have been arrested.

The current strike is the largest demonstration of massive rebelliousness the Nicaraguan people have undertaken since the Somoza family installed itself in power more than 40 years ago. Since then, the Somoza dynasty has been able to overcome several political crises due to the open support of the United States.

OCLAE Statement on Situation

FL251720Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The Executive Secretariat of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students Students--OCLAE--has released a statement in our capital concerning the latest events that have taken place in Nicaragua.

The statement notes that the crisis situation of the reactionary Somoza regime has worsened dramatically in the face of the actions by progressive and democratic forces, primarily the Sandinista National Liberation Front. It also stresses that the Nicaraguan people, in spite of the prevailing repression, are undertaking courageous actions to condemn the dictatorship, which has been ruling the Central American country with the help of Yankee imperialism.

Lastly, the statement reaffirms OCLAE's militant and unconditional solidarity with the just struggle of the Nicaraguan people. It also reaffirms its complete support for the Nicaraguan student movement, an important sector that is struggling alongside the popular and revolutionary forces for the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship.

SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL251739Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions delegation headed by Vladimir Sergeyev, chief of the AUCCTU Department for Relations With Trade Unions in Socialist Countries, has arrived in our country at the invitation of the Central Organization of Cuban [CTC] Workers. Also in the delegation are Boris Nelyubin and Aleksandr Popov, section chief and official of this department. They were welcomed at Jose Marti International Airport by CTC Executive Secretary Jesus Escandel and Jose Perez Roquete of the CTC International Department. The delegation will undertake a broad work program and hold talks with Cuban trade unions.

HART HEADS DELEGATION ON VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

FL251220Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, member of the PCC Politburo, Council of State and culture minister, has left for Moscow at the invitation of USSR Culture Minister Petr Demichev. Making up the delegation that Hart heads are comrades Antonio Nunez Jimenez and Quintin Pino Machado, culture vice ministers, and Julio Garcia Espinosa, Culture Ministry Technical Advisory Council chairman. Also part of the delegation are Hugo Chinae, section chief of the PCC Central Committee Department of Education, Science, Culture, and Luis Guardias, vice president of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba.

During its stay in the USSR, the Cuban Culture Ministry delegation will sign the Cuban-Soviet protocol for 1978-80 and will hold talks with Soviet culture representatives.

Report on Moscow Arrival

FL252027Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member and Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the USSR Culture Ministry. At the air terminal, Hart was received by Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo and USSR minister of culture, and Cuban Ambassador to the Soviet Union Severo Aguirre del Cristo.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR VISITS HOLGUIN HARVESTERS PLANT

FL241920Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1906 GMT 24 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Nikita P. Tolubeyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, has visited the installations of the 60th October Revolutionary Anniversary Sugarcane Harvesters Factory in Holguin at the head of a delegation from that fraternal country. Nikita P. Tolubeyev was accompanied on the tour by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and party first secretary in Holguin.

The Soviet delegation includes (Viktor Tobulin), CPSU Central Committee section chief; Boris Asonov, economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba; and (Sergey Egonov), USSR economic counsellor in Santiago de Cuba.

At the Holguin industrial complex, which symbolizes proletarian internationalism and friendship between Cuba and the Soviet Union, the visitors were received by factory director Lazaro Gallardo, who explained the manufacturing process and operation of the shops.

GDR PARTY DELEGATION VISITS CITRUS ENTERPRISE

FL251127Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A Socialist Unity Party of Germany high-level delegation has visited the Victoria de Giron Citrus Enterprise located in Jaguey Grande, Matanzas Province. The delegation from the fraternal country was accompanied by Matanzas PCC First Secretary Julian Rizo Alvarez, Agriculture Minister Rafael Francia Mestre and Vice Minister for Livestock Lino Carreras, all members of the PCC Central Committee.

During the visit, Felix Duque detailed the citrus development plan for the region to the members of the delegation. The plan will cover an area of 80,000 hectares, of which 26,000 have already been planted.

The visitors praised the work being done by officials and workers of the citrus enterprise, which is a source of pride in Matanzas. During their tour, the visitors noticed the advances made by the province in citrus production and expressed admiration over the quality of products harvested in previously unproductive land.

Later, the delegation visited tourist centers in Matanzas.

OCLAE ISSUES STATEMENT ON VIETNAM-CAMBODIA CONFLICT

FL242347Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2306 GMT 24 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The Executive Secretariat of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students--OCLAE--has released a statement on the Vietnam-Cambodia border conflict. The OCLAE statement says that this organization joins the progressive and revolutionary forces throughout the entire world that have called for a peaceful settlement to the border conflict between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Kampuchea.

OCLAE supports the Vietnamese Government statements that negotiations between the two governments be conducted quickly based on reciprocal respect for territorial sovereignty. It is of deep concern to OCLAE that the situation between Vietnam and Kampuchea could unleash regrettable events between countries whose peoples have forged a sincere friendship through decades of common anticolonialist struggles.

POLITBURO RESOLUTION ON CANECUTTING IN ALEGRIA DE PIO

FL251206Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The PCC Central Committee Politburo has decided to establish on permanent basis, effective with the current sugar harvest, that each year, the sugarcane planted in Alegria de Pio will be cut by those Granma Province canecutters who are selected as the most outstanding at emulation checkup meetings.

The most outstanding canecutters brigade from Granma Province will cut the first sugarcane in Alegria de Pio beginning the first part of February. Housing is being prepared and measures are being adopted for this purpose in order to execute the Politburo resolution. This is a high honor for the canecutters who are sent to Alegria de Pio.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE PUBLISHES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECREE

FL241400Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The official gazette has published the National People's Government Assembly Decree No 10, which instructs the Interior Ministry, and through it, the National Revolutionary Police, to apply the established norms to prevent the illegal occupation of a place, dwelling or land. The National People's Government Assembly met last December.

The decree also authorizes the police to proceed immediately or in the shortest time possible to return those illegally occupying a dwelling to their place of origin. They will also proceed in those cases in which the illegal occupation of a state property, dwelling or land has taken place since July 1977.

They ask the Interior Ministry members to cooperate with the activities being undertaken by other organizations in the struggle to return to the state all properties, dwellings and lands illegally occupied before July 1977.

MILIAN CHAIRS MEETING ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL YIELDS

FL252300Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2232 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Arnaldo Milian has chaired the opening session of the first national meeting on the results of the revolutionary movement for high yields in tubers and vegetables, which began today in Havana City.

Guillermo Triana Aguiar, national director for miscellaneous crops of the Ministry of Agriculture, pointed out in his main report that this year, a total of 533 caballerias of tubers and vegetables will be tied to the revolutionary movement as a result of the high yields reported. He also reported that these caballerias are devoted to the planting of potatoes, yams, Japanese malanga, yucca, pumpkin and others.

Also present at the meeting were Raul Curbelo Morales, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, and Rafael Francia Mestre, minister of agriculture and member of the PCC Central Committee.

Further Report

FL260029Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo and Secretariat member Arnaldo Milian Castro today made the closing remarks at the first national meeting on results of the revolutionary movement for high agricultural yields. The meeting was held at the Agriculture Ministry's Agricultural-Livestock Fairs Hall.

Milian said that in November 1980, we will hold the meeting and festivities marking the victory of the revolution in high yields in tubers and vegetables. He added that the country needs this revolution because, as Fidel has explained, our population has already reached 80 inhabitants per square kilometer and we depend primarily on agriculture.

The Politburo member asserted that the revolution for high yields means growing up-- in other words, multiplying production several times to produce sufficient goods in the scant arable land to satisfy demands for exports, raw materials for industry and food for the people.

The first national meeting on results of the revolution for high yields was attended by Agriculture Minister Rafael Francia Mestre, Camaguey PCC First Secretary Raul Curbelo Morales--both members of the Central Committee--and other leaders.

LAS TUNAS PARTY BUREAU SENDS LETTER TO FIDEL CASTRO

FL251218Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] On 23 January 1978, the Las Tunas Provincial Party Bureau sent a letter to PCC First Secretary Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The letter describes the measures adopted to answer the call for the people of Las Tunas to complete the sugar harvest and recover from the delays that have occurred.

The letter states that a meeting called by the party bureau, people's government, political and mass organizations, armed forces, and representatives of the work heroes came to important agreements, among them being: to make a great effort in the remaining months of the sugar harvest to cut and mill more than ever and have a good harvest with enough sugar to complete the plan. In Las Tunas, we will struggle and work to confront the difficulties, and we will succeed, says the Las Tunas Provincial Party Bureau letter to Fidel.

GARCIA FRIAS ATTENDS TRANSPORTATION CADRE GRADUATION

FL251642Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 25 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Guillermo Garcia Frias, Politburo member and Council of State vice president, and PCC Secretariat member Raul Garcia Pelaez have presided over the graduation ceremony of 367 Transportation Ministry cadres, held at the Manuel Asuncion Domenech Theater in Ciudad Libertad. The Jose Antonio Echeverria graduation from the eighth course on railroad specialization consists of 157 workers, while the Jose Maria Perez graduation from the fourth course on automotive technicians had 210. Transportation workers from the fraternal countries of Angola and Mozambique also graduated from these courses.

Holding the first places in the fourth course on automotive specialists were (Oscar Fernandez Valle), (Raimundo Perez) and (Mario Sanjustis). In the railroad course, the most outstanding students were (Juan Masa Leon), (Arnaldo Montejo) and (Tomas Barahona).

(Juan Masa Leon) read the pledge made by the Transportation Ministry graduates at the ceremony. Upon making the closing remarks, Transportation First Vice Minister Gumersindo Gonzalez pointed out the importance of these courses and their internationalist orientation through the graduation of a group of Angolan and Mozambican workers. We are optimistic and certain that this is the correct path for the development of our cadres in studying and understanding the technology with which we work, stated Gumersindo Gonzalez.

Also present at the event were Central Committee member and Transportation Minister Antonio Enrique Lussan, Nikolay (Pukharev), deputy chief of the USSR economic mission to Cuba, and vice ministers of the sector.

JOSE MARTI STUDIES SEMINAR OPENS AT ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FL241844Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The seventh youth seminar on Jose Marti studies has opened. It is being presided over by Luis Orlando Dominguez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC]. The seminar will be divided into seven committees and is being held at the Cuban Academy of Sciences until 28 January. About 300 comrades, including delegates and guests, are participating in the seminar. They will discuss a total of 118 reports on the life and works of Jose Marti.

UJC National Bureau member Ramon Ramon made the opening remarks, stressing the importance of holding this type of activity through which our country's youths can make an in-depth study of such an extraordinary personality as Jose Marti.

The seventh youth seminar on Marti studies is being held this year in tribute to the 11th World Youth and Student Festival and as part of the activities of the week of tribute to Marti. The delegates this afternoon will lay a floral wreath at the tomb of Juan Marinello in Colon Cemetery.

ORLANDO FUNDORA COMMENTS ON UJC, MASS ORGANIZATIONS WORK

FL201230Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The Union of Young Communists [UJC] and mass organizations have done a good job with respect to party guidelines aimed at commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Baragua protest, Orlando Fundora, chief of the PCC Central Committee Revolutionary Orientation Department [DOR], has affirmed. Fundora made the closing remarks at a press conference during which representatives of the UJC and mass organizations reported on the development of work plans in connection with the 15 March anniversary.

The DOR chief stated that the commemoration of the Baragua protest centennial will mark the end of all activities held since 1968, when the Demajagua centennial was observed. Fundora added that the Baragua Protest not only serves as an example but also constitutes an incentive in raising the new generations' spirit of sacrifice, revolutionary firmness and political vision.

FEU LEADER CARLOS LAGE RECEIVES IUS DELEGATION

FL201300Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Lage, president of the National Council of the Federal of University Students [FEU], has received a delegation of the International Union of Students [IUS] headed by its Secretary General, Fathi al-Fadl. During the talks, Lage explained that the FEU work is presently directed at such objectives as participation in the 11th [World Youth and Students]--Festival's organs and mobilization of the student body toward tasks in honor of the meeting. He pointed out that his organization is actively participating in the 11th festival emulation and that the students are working in the refurbishment and embellishment of Havana University after it was learned it had been selected as center of the meeting's student activities.

For his part, Fathi al-Fadl said that the propaganda and preparations for the 11th festival are among the IUS fundamental activities.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL HARVEST CHECKUP MEETING--December's National Harvest Checkup meeting was held at the Lazaro Pena Trade Union Cadre School in Arroyo Arenas, Havana City. The closing remarks of the event were made by Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and Secretary General of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers. The provinces and sugar mills which won last month's emulation--whose slogan was "to make a superior harvest in 1978"--were announced in the meeting. The outstanding provinces were Pinar Del Rio in sugar production and reduction of lost time; Cienfuegos in yield, quality and diminishment of fuel consumption; and Ciego de Avila in reduction of costs. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL]

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